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Taking 'Body Blows'
Solo performer Tim
Miller returns to SF.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Buzz over HIV 'superinfection' hits Net

by Bob Roehr

HIV listservs have been buzzing about an article on HIV "superinfection" in the September 5 *New England Journal of Medicine*. The possibility that a person might become infected with a second version of the virus kicked off lively exchanges on risks of transmission and rational strategies to reduce risk among both HIV-positive and -negative men.

"I think the false sense of security that has been created among HIV-positive men – that they are not at risk of much of anything – has created a culture that looks down on people who use condoms," said Howard Grossman, an activist doc in Manhattan who specializes in treating HIV.

"I don't want to be condescending, but the transmission of resistant virus to HIV-negative partners isn't coming from a vacuum, it's coming from HIV-positive people who don't want to have protected sex."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 40,000 Americans become infected with HIV each year. The largest group of them remains men who have sex with men. Research suggests that 20 to 50 percent of those infections will be from a virus that has at least some resistance to current therapies.

"It is really important that we reach HIV-positive people and try to imbue a sense of responsibility," Grossman said. "We [as a community] have gone out of our way in the past 10 or so years to try to get people who are infected to feel 'normal' (whatever that means), to not feel like pariahs and to go on with their lives. And rightly so."

"But when it creates a situation where I have poz patients coming in and saying that they're infected already so they assume it's the other person's responsibility, and when they say that if someone makes them use a condom, they won't have sex with that person, then I think something's gone awry."

"Who wants to think that there's a crisis [with HIV], every day for 20 years?" wrote activist George Carter. "But it is. The reality is that we are still in a crisis situation. Condoms remain our first best barrier to HIV disease spread."

Even if a PWA discounts the possibility of acquiring a second infection of a different or a drug resistant strain of HIV, there is the risk of a host of other sexually transmitted diseases – syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, HCV, HPV, drug resistant herpes – recounted Minneapolis activist Carlton Hogan, mindful of his often fragile health.

"For me, the only way I can maintain safe sex is to have it each time, every time," said Hogan. "I have had one or two opportunities with positive people, but the last thing that I need (I am not preaching to others) is the positive reinforcement on how skin-on-skin feels."

Treatment activist David Barr
page 14 ►

Gay Games organizers downplay bashing report, say Sydney is safe

by Matthew S. Bajko

With nearly 12,500 participants expected in Sydney, Australia for November's Gay Games VI, organizers are saying the city will be safe for LGBTs.



Medical pot giveaway in Santa Cruz

by Vicki Kolakowski

Hundreds of caregivers and supporters stood by and cheered as seriously ill patients, in defiance of federal law, received medical marijuana at Santa Cruz City Hall on Tuesday, September 17 with the encouragement of Mayor Christopher Krohn and numerous elected officials.

The demonstration was organized by Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a 238-member medical marijuana cooperative. WAMM leaders Valerie and Mike Corral were arrested and subsequently released after their farm was raided by more than two dozen agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration on September 5. More than 130 marijuana plants that were nearing maturity were removed by the DEA agents, leading WAMM members to wonder where they would receive their medicinal marijuana.

The DEA raid has received extensive national attention, and Tuesday's medical marijuana giveaway may have been the biggest media event in Santa Cruz since the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, some observers noted.

Both the Santa Cruz City Council and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors recently passed resolutions in support of WAMM and the use of medical marijuana, and many of those officials joined in the demonstration. Medical marijuana has come under fire by the federal government, which maintains it's illegal, despite the overwhelming passage of Proposition 215 by California voters in 1996.

"Our action today is a compassionate witness on behalf of a program that has served this community well for the past 10 years, hiding in plain sight," Santa Cruz City Council member Tim Fitzmaurice told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This program was working with us, was an exemplary program, and there was no reason to prioritize this program."

"What this is not supposed to be about is an argument about drug abuse," Fitzmaurice added. "This is about the patients who are desperately ill."



WAMM's Jeremy Griffey prepares to distribute medical marijuana at Santa Cruz City Hall.

Rick Gerharter

Leno calls for N-9 lube ban

by Ed Walsh



Mark Leno

The days will be numbered for N-9 lubricants in San Francisco if Supervisor Mark Leno gets his way.

Leno announced this week that he's requesting that the city attorney draft an ordinance that bans the sale of sexual lubricants containing the spermicide nonoxynol-9 in the city. If it passes, the landmark legislation will be the first of its kind in the country.

Several studies have shown that N-9 lubricants significantly increase the risk of HIV transmission. The proposed law was prompted by a series of articles in the *Bay*

Area Reporter detailing that despite well-documented dangers, N-9 lubricants continue to be sold, even in stores that cater to gay men. As a result of those articles, three stores in the Castro: Phantom, Smoke Plus, and Walgreens voluntarily pulled N-9 lubricants from the shelves. Several other stores in the Castro continue to sell the product.

"People using lubricants containing N-9 are under the misconception that they reduce the risk of contracting HIV, when in fact it acts as a catalyst for infection," stated Leno in a press release issued on Tuesday, September 17. "N-9 may have additional harmful effects for women and, in the event of an HIV infection, can cause irreparable harm. N-9 lubricants are a danger to public health and should be banned as soon as possible."

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Kehoe becomes Assembly speaker pro tempore

by Zak Szymanski

It's official: Democratic Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe, the first lesbian elected official out of San Diego, became speaker pro tempore of the California state Assembly last week, making her one of the most powerful elected officials in the state.

Kehoe, who was designated to fill the slot in February, received her official appointment from Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson (D-Los Angeles) on Wednesday, September 11. She is the second woman – and lesbian – to hold the post, after former Assemblywoman (now state Senator) Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica).

"We're very proud. It's a very visible position and working with the speaker has been very exciting," Kehoe told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, September 17. "I look forward to a productive term next year."

The position of speaker pro tempore fills in for the top ranking Assembly speaker when he is



Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe

not available and generally acts "like a majority whip," according to Esther Lee, legislative aide to state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), who has held the same position in the Senate.

"It's a prestigious position, and for Kehoe to hold it shows a strong out queer in the position of power and authority. It's very exciting," said Lee. "With a Democratic majority and a lesbian assis-

tant speaker, the issues being pushed through will be crucial to those of us in liberal districts. I think in San Francisco we forget how radical it is to have out people in positions of authority. This is big news."

Kehoe agreed that her position will help to advance equality for LGBT Californians.

"Certainly the visibility of the post – and the fact that I'm a lesbian is part of that visibility – is beneficial," said Kehoe. "And we are working on legislation for next year that we hope will advance equal rights for LGBT and all Californians."

Kehoe, 52, was elected to represent the 76th Assembly District on November 7, 2000. Prior to her election, she served seven years as a San Diego City Council member.

"Christine Kehoe represents the best of what California has to offer," said a statement from Wesson on Kehoe's recent appointment. "I am confident she will conduct the affairs of this House with grace and efficiency." ▼

Neighbors give okay to Dore Alley project

by Joe Dignan

Neighborhood activists who had blocked a planned \$22 million, 98-unit affordable housing development at the corner of Folsom Street and Dore Alley said at a community meeting on Tuesday, September 17 that their demands are being met and that they no longer oppose the project.

Jim Meko and the SOMA Leadership Council had stalled the project by filing an appeal to the developer's request for a planning variance, primarily demanding that the project provide more parking for businesses in the area to replace the 50-space parking lot on Dore on which the project will, in part, be built.

In response to neighbors' demands, the developer, the non-profit Citizens Housing Corporation, will provide 14 market-rate parking spaces for businesses in the building. The parking spots will replace about 400 square feet of the planned 3,800 square feet of community space planned for the building.

To address neighbors' concerns

about safety in the alley, which is frequently used as a loading and staging area by area businesses, the developers have also modified the design of the entries to the ground-level apartments on Dore so that they will not open directly onto the street.

About 11 neighbors, District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly, supervisorial candidate Burke Strunsky, as well as the developer and architect attended the sometimes contentious meeting where most of the discussions were about parking.

The developer plans to provide only 16 spaces for the 98 units in addition to the 14 spots for neighboring businesses. They cited studies showing that low-income residents, at whom this project is targeted, tend not to have cars and so asked for a variance from the city's normal one unit, one parking spot, rule.

The parking lot that the building will displace is part of the site of the annual Up Your Alley street fair, held at the end of July. The fair's organizers, South of Market Merchants' and Individuals' Lifestyle Events, did not attend the meeting, but their spokesman,

Cory Carillo, said that the fair will continue at or near its current location. He said that other potential sites, to make up for the space lost from the parking lot, might include an extension down Folsom Street, using a block of 9th Street either north or south of Folsom, or making an "H" using Howard, Dore, and Folsom streets. He did not rule out moving the event to another site entirely, but said that any decisions about the fair's location will depend on discussions with the city's Department of Parking and Traffic.

The project has become a political football. The city's Planning Commission normally hears variance appeals of the sort that Meko and his group filed. But because of squabbling between the mayor and the Board of Supervisors about appointments to that panel, the commission is not sitting, so appeals are being heard, and the project could have been on hold indefinitely.

Daly, a frequent foe of the mayor, also managed to stop the funding for the project by temporarily holding it up in a supervisors committee until neighbors' concerns were addressed. ▼

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Gender categories challenge craigslist.org

by Zak Szymanski

Gender benders and Craigslist junkies, take heart: last week's change to the "Missed Connections" category of the Web site has been modified, and the ensuing angry "flag wars" have ceased, returning the free-for-all message board to some semblance of normal.

The trouble started when the staff at Craigslist (www.craigslist.org) decided to act on feedback they had received from Missed Connections users asking for an easier way to search through messages. The board acts as a way for people to find those they have lost or just met, and also gives the occasional bitter lover an outlet to vent. But prior to last week, there were few resources to determine whether a vague message was for a man or woman, which led many to speculate online whether a posting was intended for them. So Craigslist added a function that for a brief time forced message posters to choose: "m4w," "m4m," "w4m," and "w4w."

Almost immediately, there was an uproar from transgenders who don't necessarily fit into the binary gender system. There was also an outcry from those who enjoy having to guess (or make people guess) the recipient of an intended message. Still others were upset that the Missed Connections cate-

gory had suddenly transformed into a strictly romantic site, which considerably narrowed the board's focus.

"To suggest the Missed Connections section of this Web site is to be used strictly as a means of 'hooking up' is to take part in an extremely unfortunate and truly missed connection," stated one Craigslist user in the feedback forum.

Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist, acted swiftly, and on Friday, September 13, added an option to bypass the gender categories for those who wished to do so.

"We've made a lot of improvements in search capabilities based on literally years of feedback," Newmark told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We knew we would make some mistakes, and have been asking for feedback in our feedback forum."

The real problems began, however, when a select group of users unhappy with the new Missed Connections rule, began ranting on the message board itself, instead of in the feedback forum. This led to their postings being "flagged" by other users — enough flags and a posting gets removed from the board — and those unhappy with being flagged then flagged legitimate missed connections in retaliation. The result was a rather unusable Missed Connections board. ▼

slowed by the amount of flags and chock full of unreadable, deleted messages.

"Instead of asking us what the deal was and giving us a chance to fix things," said Newmark, "some people decided to hurt other people by arbitrarily flagging posts, and they did accomplish the removal of legitimate posts."

Gender categories are still a part of the other personals boards, where "men seeking men" and "women seeking women" can place ads for potential partners. Transgenders sometimes find themselves flagged and removed from these boards based on transphobic or confused users who may, for instance, deem an ad from a female-to-male person as unsuitable for the lesbian board, despite that person's continued affiliation with that community. But Newmark told the *B.A.R.* he is looking into some remedies for that as well.

"I'm actively concerned about transphobia, and I would love to hear feedback and ideas from people on how to deal with it," said Newmark. "Raising the threshold of flags that it takes to remove postings may solve the problem. We may also put a comment on the posting page that if someone is transgender they should post in the category that works best for them, and if they get flagged and removed, here's where to e-mail us to fix it." ▼

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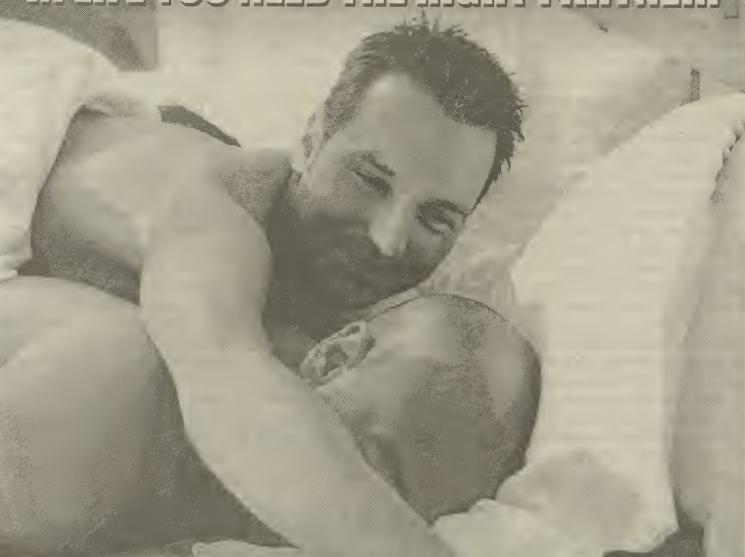
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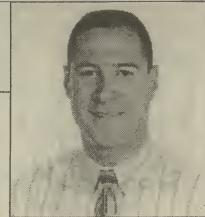
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Landshark

by Jane Warner

3 00 block of Noe, September 17, 6 p.m.: A man expecting a delivery from Meals on Wheels heard the doorbell ring and buzzed the complex gate outside. When he opened his apartment door, however, he was surprised to find a stranger standing there instead of the regular volunteer. Asking the stranger what he wanted, the man pushed past him, knocked the wheelchair-bound resident over, and entered his apartment. The suspect proceeded to rip the phone off the wall and left with the victim's color television set. The robber, described as African American with a shaved head, blue shirt, and blue pants, ran outside and got into a waiting vehicle. The car – described as an older four-door tan sedan – had two other people in it. It was last seen speeding northbound on Noe toward Market Street.

Packing

Midnight Sun bar, 4067 18th Street, September 16, 2 p.m.: Find-

ing a backpack on the floor after the bar had closed, an employee threw the bag into the bar's lost and found and thought nothing of it. After two weeks went by and nobody claimed it, the bar owner decided to search the contents of the bag to see if he could determine ownership. Inside the bag, the owner found three packs of cigarettes, a checkbook, several pens, and a loaded 25-caliber semi-automatic handgun. The bar owner called police, who took custody of the gun and ran the name on the checkbook, which showed that the person had been booked for needing a mental evaluation in July. A computer check of the gun showed it had been stolen in 1975. The weapon was turned over to investigators for further follow-up.

Full service

All American Boy, 463 Castro Street, September 16, 7:06 p.m.: A man sitting in front of the clothing

store asked the clerk for some money. When the clerk declined, the man stood up and yelled, "You're a fucking asshole!" Angry, the clerk confronted him, asking him why he called him a name.

The aggressive panhandler suddenly rushed the clerk, pushing him in the chest with both his hands. Afraid for his safety, the clerk tried to get away from him.

The suspect grabbed the clerk's glasses off his face, breaking the lenses, and scratched the clerk's face with his fingernails. An officer on patrol saw the commotion and intervened. The 38-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station where he was booked for battery and being under the influence of drugs. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



Ezerski pal gets four years

by Ed Walsh

The San Francisco gay man who made national headlines last year when he helped accused killer Adam Ezerski avoid arrest was sentenced this month to just under four years in federal prison for harboring a fugitive.

U.S. District Court Judge Phyllis Hamilton sentenced Troy Young, 38, to three years and 10 months in prison during a hearing at the San Francisco Federal Building on Golden Gate Avenue on Wednesday, September 4. With credit for time served and good behavior in prison, Young could be free in three years, according to Young's attorney, Assistant Federal Public Defender David Fermino. If Young, who has a history of drug use, is admitted to a 500-hour prison drug rehabilitation program, his sentence could be reduced by about 10 percent, Fermino said.

On May 29, Young pleaded guilty to the charges of harboring a fugitive and lying to an FBI agent. The latter charge stemmed from Young telling an agent that he didn't know where Ezerski was while he was in a car with him. Fermino said Young pleaded guilty rather than going

to trial because the case against him was very strong. Young's guilty plea also lessened his potential sentence, Fermino explained.

Several letters of support from Young's friends were introduced during the sentencing hearing. One of those letters was from Ezerski, who backed up Young's contention that he urged Ezerski to turn himself in. When given the opportunity to speak, Young said that he was sorry and wished he had handled the situation differently.

Young's sentence was at the low end of the sentencing guidelines for his crime. Fermino argued that Young deserved a sentence even lower, but the judge refused to budge from the guidelines.

Fermino told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Young will soon be transferred from the Santa Rita jail in Dublin to a long-term federal prison.

Ezerski, 20, will be tried this fall in Florida for allegedly killing 39-year-old Anthony Martilotto in a Fort Lauderdale hotel room. Ezerski said he killed Martilotto in self-defense after the Brooklyn man tried to rape him. Ezerski was initially suspected of killing an elderly man in Florida but he has since been cleared of that

crime. Ezerski also is alleged to have assaulted a man in San Francisco, but he said that he engaged in a mutual fight with the man after the man refused to pay him for sex.

After he allegedly killed Martilotto, Ezerski ran away to San Francisco in Martilotto's rented Ford Mustang. He met Young on a street in San Francisco. After Young learned Ezerski was wanted for killing two gay men in Florida before attempting to kill a man in San Francisco, Young said he was convinced Ezerski was innocent and wanted to help him avoid getting into more trouble. Young said he tried all along the way to get Ezerski to turn himself in. The pair took off to Reno where they were arrested on August 17, 2001, just days after they first met in San Francisco.

In a letter to this writer last month, Ezerski said he appreciated Young's support and feels "extremely bad for my part in Troy's predicament."

"He heard the truth before anyone," Ezerski wrote. "And his heart knew what was right. He protected me from the masses who were seeking to find me and potentially so much more ... Troy warned me that it would be continually dangerous for me to continue to run." ▼

Apparent grizzly end for SF institution Bear Store

by Zak Szymanski

The Bear Store, a San Francisco institution and home of Brush Creek Media, was shut down by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department on Wednesday, September 18, allegedly due to nonpayment of rent.

A sign in the store's window read, "Closed due to illness," while an official notice on the door simultaneously declared that the store's

property would be turned over to the building owner. Sheriff's department representatives kept watch over the site through the morning.

According to court records, building owner Michael Stolowitz sued Brush Creek Media for unlawful detainer after the company defaulted on a July 9 notice to pay back rent totaling \$7,321. The monthly rent for the Bear Store, located at 367 9th Street in the South of Market District, was

\$4,600, or \$153.33 per day, according to court papers.

This is not the first time Brush Creek Media has run into financial trouble; last year, the U.S. government placed a federal tax lien on the store for nonpayment of taxes totaling \$54,028.

It is unknown whether the Bear Store will reopen elsewhere. The *Bay Area Reporter* was unable to locate Brush Creek Media representatives for comment. ▼

Dist. 8 supe candidate could face ethics fine

by Matthew S. Bajko

Eileen Hansen, an out lesbian who is a candidate in the District 8 supervisor race, has asked the San Francisco Ethics Commission to investigate if she failed to comply with the city's rules on campaign consultants when she was a strategist with Tom Ammiano's 1999 mayoral campaign.

Hansen approached the Ethics Commission earlier this month after a reporter questioned her about her failing to file as a campaign consultant during that race and if a complaint had been filed with the commission.

According to city records, Hansen received \$3,000 for her role as a top aide to Ammiano but never filed as a campaign consultant as required by the campaign consultant ordinance. The ordinance states anyone who acts as a campaign consultant or strategist and is paid more than \$1,000 must file with the city as such.

"It seems to me, by my reading of it, that I do need to file," Hansen told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I asked the Ethics Commission to review this matter and that is in process now."

Ethics Commission Executive Director Ginny Vida said she could not discuss pending complaints or reviews before the commission. Nor would she speculate how long the review Hansen requested would take.

"I can't confirm or deny if a complaint has been filed. If a settlement has been filed it is announced at a public hearing," explained Vida about the commission's policies.

Hansen is not the only campaign adviser who did not file with the city during the 1999 mayor's race. All three of Mayor Willie Brown's top campaign consultants failed to comply with the ordinance and failed to report their campaign consultant activity.

In June, the Ethics Commission revealed that it had settled with the three consultants – Fred Hamdun, P.J. Johnston, and Barry Wyatt – and had assessed each of them a \$1,350 fine for failing to comply with the city's consultant rules. None admitted any wrongdoing in the settling of the complaint.

Whispers that a complaint had been filed against Hansen surfaced two weeks ago after the *B.A.R.* reported that she had contested fellow candidate Bevan Duffy's des-



District 8 candidate Eileen Hansen

oral campaign, Hansen said she did not expect to be paid for her services, which included strategy and management duties. The campaign also paid her nearly \$4,000 to reimburse her for supplies and copying costs.

Hansen said it was not until after the election, and there were leftover funds, that the campaign decided to reimburse people for their time and work. She said she did not realize that the payments triggered the city's rules for filing as a consultant.

"I was not aware of this filing ordinance at the time. There was no notification by the Ethics Commission of the need to file," she said.

Although Ammiano sponsored the legislation that voters approved in November 1997 creating the consultant ordinance, Hansen said her failing to file was an honest mistake.

"He wasn't running the campaign, he was the candidate," she said of Ammiano. "The people who did the reporting didn't know about it. He wasn't filing the papers."

It was not until this year, Hansen said, that she was made aware of the ordinance when the

ignation for the November ballot. Duffy, who is openly gay and a former aide to Mayor Brown, had submitted his designation to the elections department as neighborhood services director. He later changed it to read neighborhood services manager after Hansen objected that the initial wording sounded like his old job as director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

Hansen had argued Duffy's

"I asked the Ethics Commission to review this matter and that is in process now."

designation should read lobbyist to reflect the fact he has worked as a consultant for the Robert Group and other clients over the past year. While both Hansen and fellow candidate Tom Radulovich, an openly gay BART board member, argued the new wording still smacked of Duffy's former job at City Hall, acting elections chief John Arntz ruled in favor of Duffy.

Hansen said this week that it appears no complaint against her was ever filed with the Ethics Commission. She said the rumors of her failing to comply with the campaign rules are in retaliation for her questioning Duffy's ballot designation.

"What is disconcerting to me is that it is being put out there as some nefarious act on my part, when in fact that is not true," she said. "This is about people who only want to get back at me for filing against Bevan's ballot designation, which I felt was dishonest."

At the time of the 1999 may-

Ethics Commission notified all campaigns about the city's rules. The notice prompted her to declare one worker on her supervisor campaign as a consultant.

"I wasn't aware of the law. We have one paid staff person on my staff and we filed for her," Hansen said.

Ethics Commission staff and Hansen met on Tuesday, September 17, to discuss the issue and to determine if she will need to pay a fine. According to the ordinance, the Ethics Commission can assess a late fine of \$50 per day after the due date until the report or statement is filed. Most likely, Hansen will be required to pay a fine similar to the one levied against Brown's advisers.

"They told me their decision will be based on the fact there was no ill intent to hide anything and that there was a lack of knowledge about the law," she said. "This was a complete oversight. I am happy to pay whatever is appropriate." ▼

Horizons Foundation benefit next Thurs.

by Zak Szymanski

When a grant-making organization is able to award more than \$6 million to Bay Area LGBT projects over three years, it's cause for celebration. The Horizons Foundation – the nation's first LGBT community foundation, founded in 1979 – funds and provides assistance to organizations that combat homophobia, tackle LGBT health issues, and create community. Still, its recent record-breaking grants are just one reason to attend its annual event next Thursday, September 26, from 6-8:30 p.m.

The event – taking place at the

Garden Court of the Palace Hotel, Market and New Montgomery in downtown San Francisco – celebrates the foundation's grantees, donors, and LGBT communities, and features the first-ever Cornerstone Awards to honor those who have made significant contributions toward building and preserving institutions. Honorees include Scott Hafner, longtime Horizons board member and former board chair; and Dr. Sandra R. Hernandez, chief executive officer of the San Francisco Foundation and the former director of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

The event includes a reception with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and

a silent auction. Dozens of items will be displayed for bidding, including a one week vacation in Park City, Utah; and a variety of restaurant certificates from Blowfish Sushi, the Meetinghouse, One Market, Fior d'Italia, and Zuni Café.

Tickets to the event are \$100 per person. A \$50 community rate is also available. Proceeds allow Horizons to continue to help LGBT organizations throughout the Bay Area. For reservations, call (415) 355-9988, or e-mail horizons@wongway.net. More information about the Horizons Foundation is available at www.horizonsfoundation.org or by calling (415) 398-2333. ▼

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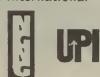
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Matthew S. Bakko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dan Aiello • Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler
John Blanco • Dan Blue • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Joe Dignan
Richard Dods • Glenn Helfand • Liz Highteyman
Joe E. Jeffreys • Brandon Juddell • Robert Julian
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Adrian RobertsAD PRODUCTION & DESIGN
T. Scott KingPRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Christopher AmbridgePHOTOGRAPHERS
Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
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David McBrayerADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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REPRESENTATIVE
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212.242.6863LEGAL COUNSEL
Thomas E. Horn, Esq.MEMBER
National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press International

Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
<http://www.ebar.com>

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com
Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com
Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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Syringe sale law needed

Governor Gray Davis has been a strong supporter of HIV/AIDS legislation and related funding, especially in comparison to his Republican predecessors. As he wades through numerous bills awaiting his signature, however, Davis has yet to take action on one proposal that would surely help stop the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

Senate Bill 1785, authored by state Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), would allow California pharmacists and other licensed healthcare professionals to provide up to 30 syringes without a prescription to people 18 years of age or older in order to prevent the spread of not only HIV/AIDS but also hepatitis C. One of the ways these two diseases are transmitted is through the shared use of contaminated needles. The bill is supported enthusiastically by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which has provided effective needle exchange programs for years, and by other groups such as the California Medical Association, the California Nurses Association, and the California Pharmacists Association.

California, which in so many ways leads the nation in HIV/AIDS treatment, lags behind in prevention efforts. The state is one of only six in the country that require a prescription in order to purchase a syringe. And there is evidence from other states to show that allowing adults to purchase syringes without a prescription would be an effective prevention tool. In Connecticut, for example, which passed a similar law in 1992, findings from two studies show that fewer injection drug users reported obtaining syringes from the street (74 percent before versus 28 percent after).

There is also evidence that expanded access to syringes does not lead to increased drug use. This false "increased use" argument is at the core of opposition to needle exchange or syringe purchase programs by law enforcement groups and others. Numerous studies over the years have found

that needle exchange programs don't lead to higher rates of drug use; it is not surprising that research shows similar findings regarding syringe access through purchase programs such as SB1785.

The state Department of Health Services reports that the sharing of syringes causes more than 1,500 Californians to become infected with HIV each year, and more than 3,000 people to become infected with hepatitis C.

Democratic and Republican governors alike have signed legislation allowing for expanded syringe access programs through pharmacy sales. Even current Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson signed

such a law while he was governor of Wisconsin.

We accept the reality that some people will not stop injecting drugs. And we live with the reality that in San Francisco and elsewhere around the state, there are not enough substance abuse treatment programs to help all those who want to stop their drug use. It is illogical to keep outdated laws on the books that threaten drug users with disease. The cost of treating most of those who become infected with HIV/AIDS falls largely on taxpayers, while the minimal cost of a sterile syringe must be paid by its user.

Governor Davis should sign SB1785. The law amounts to lifesaving legislation. ▼

Editorial



Slow down the CARE process

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Six months ago, in mid-February, San Francisco's HIV Health Services Council (a.k.a., CARE Council) found itself unprepared when it received notice of the city's Ryan White CARE Act award for the current fiscal year ('02-'03), as it had not adequately planned for significantly reduced federal CARE funds, anticipating instead increased, or possibly flat, funding. The city received \$2.2 million less than anticipated (a 6.2 percent cut below FY '01-'02). The council raced through a deep-cut reduction process, approving a last-minute across-the-board 6 percent cut to all CARE-funded AIDS service organizations for FY '02-'03; in part, we were fed last March, because there hadn't been time to consider more thoughtful, targeted cuts. "Across-the-board" cuts, reportedly, occurred.

Six months later, the Department of Public Health provided the council data that now illustrates the difference between FY '01-'02 and '02-'03 allocations to service sub-categories were not cut evenly, as some received up to 28 percent more, while others, notably the primary healthcare category, received 17 percent less.

To avoid the same last-minute crisis next February, the council assumed the process needed to be held now to prevent being caught with its pants down again, unprepared should additional unanticipated cuts occur again next year. So on August 26, the Council – inexplicably, six months early – prioritized 31 sub-categories to receive funding beginning March 2003. The priority order was determined in order to then consider four distinct funding scenarios.

However laudable being prepared is, this council acted both prematurely and without knowing important information, including knowing how \$6.68 to \$7.54 million of CARE funds will eventually be allocated for the current FY. First, when the council deliberated August 26, just over \$5 million

remained unallocated, despite being six months into the current FY. Before the council voted to set priorities, I distributed an analysis highlighting the missing \$5 million, alleging they were about to vote based on incomplete information.

Second, the council acted before knowing whether the federal government will permit the city to carry forward to the current FY \$1.68 million which remained unspent last FY, as the city's application had not been submitted before the council voted. According to a council member, one reason why the \$1.68 million went unspent is because some AIDS organizations did not receive their awards from DPH until the very last day of the FY; it's nearly impossible to spend CARE funds in a single afternoon, resulting in unspent funds.

Between these two problems, how \$6.68 million will be allocated this FY was unknown prior to voting; after voting, matters got worse.

A third problem has surfaced: DPH supplied the council with wildly inaccurate information. Since the council itself failed to ask, I requested that DPH account for the missing \$5,069,631. Six working days after the council voted, DPH supplied me corrected data; DPH discovered it needed \$5.8 million, not \$5 million, to allocate to missing categories. To drum up the \$781,000 difference – bringing to \$7.54 million the amount unknown before the council voted – DPH has now cut allocations to five categories, which DPH had previously misinformed the council had been allocated for the current FY. Among new reductions, two programs were cut a combined \$581,000; both programs provide housing by way of residential treatment for substance abuse and mental health clients. The council voted unaware that DPH had supplied it with misinformation.

A fourth problem is the council has no assurance that every six days DPH will not

again reduce current allocations with such dizzying speed. The allocation process appears driven by issuing contracts willy-nilly, rather than according to an established budget for each sub-category. The final allocation each sub-category receives this year influences next year's allocation.

The council then voted August 26 on the first of four funding scenarios: In the unlikely event the city receives an increase next FY, the increase will be allocated only to the first 11 priorities; the remaining 20 categories will be flat-funded using current FY allocations, regardless of increased need for services. The

remaining three scenarios – flat funding, a 5 percent or less cut, or a cut exceeding 5 percent – will be voted on during the council's September 23 meeting. The

worst-case scenario involves eliminating up to 10, and possibly more, service categories. They may not be cut proportionately; instead they may be eliminated entirely.

I urge the community to attend this Monday's council meeting (City Hall, Room 421, 4:30 p.m.) to demand next year's allocation process be slowed down. Given HIV/AIDS service cuts already implemented in FY '02-'03 by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the city, and the CARE Council – combined with another city deficit projected for next year which will likely include more cuts, and the very real probability of another CARE award reduction next year – now is the time to insist that funding-scenario processes be slowed down. If we wait until February to raise objections, not only will the city be embroiled in a budget battle drowning out CARE funding allocations, it will be too late to influence this council's premature set-in-stone decisions. ▼

Guest Opinion

Patrick Monette-Shaw is an independent community observer/AIDS accountability research investigator.

Less than 'Olympic' memories

I hate to admit it, but our very own *SF Chronicle* recently published a great article on "Gearing Up for the Gay Games" that included ample recognition of "Gay Olympics" founder Tom Waddell. Unfortunately, they did not delve very deep into the litigious tragedy sparked by the U.S. Olympic Committee that haunted Waddell to the very end of his life. And I fear that this is a story too many in the LGBT community — outside of Jim Provenzano — are unaware of as well (See also: *Gay & Lesbian Biography*, St. James Press, 1997, where I wrote about Tom).

All the recent local coverage of San Francisco's aspirations to attract the USOC's favor in choosing our fair city for the larger 2012 Games has left many of us who remember Waddell's struggles less than enthusiastic. I find it hard to simply forgive and forget the past. Is there any evidence that the ruthless, ego-bloat-ed USOC has changed?

To recap: Tom Waddell was the founder of the Gay Games (first conceived as the "Gay Olympics" in 1982), a quadrennial celebration of sports and the arts that saw some 1,300 gay men and lesbians from over 24 countries proudly march out onto the field of Kezar Stadium to compete in track and field, swimming, wrestling, diving, cycling, softball, soccer, tennis, and basketball. And as the *Chronicle* article so joyously confirmed, the Gay Games have been going full-force around the world ever since. Waddell — a world-class athlete himself, as well as a gay activist, father, and doctor specializing in infectious diseases — was passionate about the notion of organized gay and athletic events that, as he told the *Advocate* in 1986, were "conceived as a new idea in the meaning of sport based on inclusion rather than exclusion."

But it was soon apparent that the USOC saw things the other way around. The committee sued Waddell in a last-minute injunction against the use of the word "Olympics," even though events like the "Rat Olympics" and the "Police Olympics" (among dozens of others) had proceeded without a peep since Congress had granted the USOC the exclusive rights to the word "Olympic" in 1978. At the time, everyone assumed the self-important committee was merely grandstanding.

Not so. They pursued their suit right up to the U.S. Supreme Court. But here's the truly sadistic part: Even as Waddell lay dying of AIDS at home right here in San Francisco, his young daughter at his side, the USOC filed to recover legal fees by placing a \$100,000 lien against his property. Just a few weeks before he died in July 1987, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of the USOC's use of the word "Olympic" and ordered that damages be paid. The USOC has not, to my knowledge, ever since pursued a case against other groups and events that borrowed "their" word, nor offered any hint of remorse that their actions may have been, shall we say, a bit overzealous.

These are my local "Olympic" memories. Maybe we want to think twice before kow-towing to the USOC powers that be, as financially rewarding as hosting the games might be. At the very least, the USOC owes the sizable lesbian/gay and straight-but-not-narrow communities here an apology for its past ruthlessness before holding those dollar signs so temptingly over our heads. Now there's an action that would be in true Olympic spirit! Are you listening, Mayor Brown?

Jerome Szymczak
Alameda, California

Time for candidates to discuss issues

It's interesting that supporters of Eileen Hansen and Tom Radulovich focus so much of their attention on non-issues in this campaign. One week it's that Bevan Duffy is the mayor's guy; the next week is another bogus claim that Bevan Duffy shouldn't be allowed to use Neighborhood Services Manager as his ballot designation. Tell me, does anyone really think these are the things people care about?

What about homelessness and the increasing numbers of mentally ill or drug-addicted individuals camping and urinating outside our homes and businesses? Do Eileen Hansen, Tom Radulovich, or any of the other candidates for District 8 supervisor support Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash initiative? Maybe that's something potential voters would like to know before November 5. I know of only one candidate who's supporting Care Not Cash: Bevan Duffy.

Eileen Hansen, on the other hand, whose campaign slogan is "Leadership that Listens," apparently hasn't been listening closely enough, because she's opposing Care Not Cash, although a strong majority in District 8 support the measure. Maybe she and her supporters would do a better service by actually discussing issues of importance to District 8 residents, rather than spending so much time making off-the-wall claims about Bevan Duffy or the others in the race. It's time for some political maturity from all the candidates.

Tom Perrault
San Francisco

Quality of life

Bevan Duffy likes to say it's all about the neighborhood. He's right. It is all about the neighborhood. Unfortunately, Bevan Duffy is not all about the neighborhood.

The question that voters should be asking themselves is whether quality of life has improved in anyone's neighborhood while Bevan Duffy was Mayor Brown's neighborhood services director. The answer is no.

Did the streets get cleaner while Bevan Duffy was Mayor Brown's neighborhood services director? No. They got dirtier. But as a candidate, Bevan Duffy now likes to do photo ops at neighborhood clean-up days.

Did the problem of homelessness improve while Bevan Duffy was Mayor Brown's neighborhood services director? No. It got worse without any thoughtful plan to deal with it.

When neighborhood activists successfully fought to return neighborhood planning to the neighborhoods, did Bevan Duffy support this measure? No. He opposed Proposition D because he didn't want to oppose taking that power away from his former boss, Mayor Brown.

Has the character of our neighborhoods remained true to the architectural and cultural tradition of San Francisco while Bevan Duffy was Mayor Brown's neighborhood services director? No. More big national chains have moved in. And as a high-priced

lobbyist, Bevan Duffy has helped to kick neighborhood businesses out and to bring big chain stores into our neighborhoods.

Now Bevan Duffy thinks he deserves a job promotion.

We need a supervisor who has a proven track record of getting things done on behalf of the neighborhoods. Tom Radulovich is the only candidate for District 8 who has a proven track record as an elected official at getting the job done on behalf of our neighborhoods.

One of the few things to improve during the last few years has been Muni service, thanks in part to the hard work of Rescue Muni and Tom Radulovich. Tom Radulovich worked with Rescue Muni to bring important reforms to a system that was rife with problems. Now, for two years in a row, riders have given good marks to the transit system's improvements. Because of his hard work, Tom Radulovich has earned the endorsement of Rescue Muni.

In short, Tom Radulovich has earned a job promotion. Bevan Duffy has not.

Robert Ordenana
San Francisco

Hansen's people must be scared

Amazingly the Hansen people are attacking Bevan Duffy so vehemently that they must really be scared of a true and independent candidate.

I recently met Bevan Duffy and found him to be honest, up-front, and an independent person who is going out to our neighborhoods letting us know where he stands and what his interests are. He is not behind Mayor Willie Brown as Eileen Hansen is behind Tom Ammiano.

We have people like Alan Collins attacking Duffy on the basis that Mayor Brown attended Duffy's campaign kickoff. Look who is calling the kettle black. Since Tom Ammiano attended Eileen Hansen's kickoff campaign, then that means she is one of Ammiano's people. So far, all Hansen has said or done is to back and support all of Ammiano's initiatives. Hansen hasn't come out with anything new or original of her own; and Hansen does not appear to be a candidate who really listens to the people since 75 percent are behind Care Not Cash and Hansen is against it.

I see Hansen as another leftist who will support whatever Ammiano and the extremist progressives of the Board of Supervisors want. We need a person who is not afraid to make common sense decisions and propose practical solutions to real problems facing San Francisco citizens and neighborhoods. Those so concerned about Duffy knowing the mayor, remember this, Brown has only one year left where as Ammiano is running for mayor next year. I ask you, who has who in their back pockets?

Think for yourself, listen to what the candidates have to say, and then vote for the right person; and in my opinion that's Bevan Duffy.

Neil Uscier
San Francisco

Challenge for supe candidate

It's not clear to me if guilt — or insincerity — lies behind Bevan Duffy's call for volunteers to "help provide neighborhood-based outreach" (whatever that means) to homeless people in the Castro, as reported in the August 15 issue.

I seriously question the wisdom of dispatching a group of grinning Duffy supporters, wearing goofy TV-head T-shirts, to go talk to homeless people about how Bevan wants to cut their welfare checks down to \$59.

next page ►

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As a District 8 voter and resident of the Castro, I'd like to challenge Duffy to show us how it's really done. I'd like to see him spend one month living a respectable and decent life in the Castro - on \$59, as mandated by the so-called Care Not Cash initiative that he so wholeheartedly supports.

Only then would his volunteers have any credibility running around the neighborhood telling our more unfortunate residents how to live their lives.

And be careful with those cocktails at Mecca, Bevan. Your check can disappear in a round or two if you're not careful, and you gotta make that stretch a whole month.

Derek Glass
San Francisco

Issues around HOPE

For those who believe the Home Ownership Program for Everyone (Proposition R) initiative is wonderful, there are many issues to consider.

First, the price of the unit. If anyone believes the average price per unit will be around \$150,000, it is time for a reality check. The price will be determined by the number of rooms and location. Obviously, a one-bedroom unit in a Nob Hill or Russian Hill building will be more expensive than a unit in South of Market. The ultimate price will be set by the building's owner.

Second, the building owner's responsibility. If you own a unit and you need plumbing or other repairs, who pays the bills? Are repairs in the unit the responsibility of the building owner or the unit owner? If the building owner does some work on the building and claims a "pass through" does the unit owner have to participate in such pass throughs, or just the renters?

Third, there are questions around home-owning tenants' rights. The guarantee of lifetime occupancy for a tenant at rent-controlled rates may not be legal. This issue has to be cleared with the city attorney's office.

The answer to the housing problem is to build more affordable housing. The HOPE initiative, however, will aggravate the situation. It will remove rented units from the market, and increase the rent when units become available. Most people in San Francisco want to rent an apartment at an affordable rate.

HOPE's author, Supervisor Tony Hall, is not interested in the renters of San Francisco. He is a mouthpiece for the landlords.

Jim Edwards
San Francisco

Thank a Sister

The Family Link is proud to be one of nearly three dozen diverse, low-budget, nonprofit community agencies that received grants from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence this summer. The Sisters doled out over \$21,000 - and they do this three times a year. We greatly appreciate the Sisters, as well as every contributor who helps make their grass-roots fundraising so successful. They'll be busy again at the Folsom and Castro street fairs, and we hope everyone will remember to thank them personally.

Denis Wade, Board Member
The Family Link

America's past

Lest we forget, America is hardly known for supporting the democratic process. Think of Guatemala, Chile, Iran, and countless other countries where we directly overthrew a democratically elected leader or supported dictators including the Taliban and Iraq's Saddam Hussein. This is not an enviable record. Nor is it a record to recommend that the U.S. will establish a democracy in Iraq.

Denise D'Anne
San Francisco

Parking structures needed

We San Franciscans live in a city where there isn't nearly enough street parking or garages, and sometimes we have to park illegally because there just isn't anywhere else to park. If you get a ticket you just pay it because there is no other option. If you are one of the unlucky few that have your vehicle towed, the recovery fee is very expensive. On August 17, I was one of the unlucky few and the fee was \$148 to bail my truck out of automotive jail. To add insult to injury, an additional \$50 ticket was waiting for me on my windshield when I was reunited with my vehicle for a grand total of \$198.

I'm sure there is a perfectly reasonable explanation for this procedure. Although I honestly feel it is a sneaky way for the city of San Francisco to extort money from vehicle-owning citizens and rental car wielding tourists. It's ridiculous to think that adding more buses and restored street cars is going to solve the traffic problems and lack of parking.

The majority of people riding public transportation do so because they don't need to drive or can't afford the expense. I know this because I was one of

them for many years. Those of us that need or choose to own a vehicle pay dearly for the privilege to do so. Multi-level parking structures in densely populated neighborhoods could be built with the millions of dollars collected every year from parking violations. The residents that wish to use these structures, upon proof of residency, would pay a reasonable monthly fee to maintain them. I don't think anyone minds giving up money to the city if the money is spent to benefit the entire city and all of its residents.

I've been a resident of San Francisco for 13 years and for all the negative things about this city, I can think of a half dozen positives that make it all worthwhile. But sometimes I feel like I'm being loyal to a lover that's cheating on me, or as my old man used to say, "Getting fucked without getting kissed."

John D. St. Arno
San Francisco

Car-free day coming up

The city of San Francisco will be holding its first official car-free day on Friday, September 27. Car-free days are events that are held throughout the world to demonstrate the improved quality of life when people take to their feet, bicycles, and buses to get around. This year, world car-free days are between September 13-27. On September 27, city officials, spearheaded by Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, will close a few blocks of Montgomery Street in downtown San Francisco to car traffic and use the open space for a transportation fair. The rest of us are encouraged to participate by being car-free for the day.

The goal of the car-free day movement, however, is not about one day. In the long run, the organizers of car-free days aim for transformed communities in which walking, biking, and public transportation are the preferred means of getting around. San Francisco has adopted a transit-first policy to this end that is a part of our city charter. Our first car-free day is a step in making the policy reality. Car-free days are also about global environmental, economic, and personal justice. There is no escaping the fact that our hunger for oil to drive our cars has been more important to us for decades than human rights in the oil rich countries that supply us.

You can join the event on September 27 by not driving - but if you started earlier, even better. For more information, contact Sarah He, legislative aide to Supervisor Maxwell, at (415) 554-7670.

Susan Vaughan
San Francisco

City run-around on HIV

On a Friday night last month, I had unsafe sex and may have been exposed to HIV. After worrying about it all weekend, I went to the City Clinic on 7th Street the following Tuesday, and was given the regular HIV antibody test but was told it can take weeks or months to show if I was infected. I was told to call San Francisco General Hospital to get a viral load test to see if I actually now had the virus in my bloodstream and start appropriate treatment. The doctor then gave me a pamphlet entitled "Could You Have Just Gotten HIV?" It featured two pairs of clasping hands and it gave a phone number to call to talk about my options.

I called that number (415-502-8100) and the guy made it sound like I was crazy, that the viral load test was only for people who already are HIV-positive. Then I called back the same number and talked to someone else and read them the pamphlet. They said that they were no longer offering that option due to funding cutbacks. He told me to call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The person at SFAF said he never heard of such a thing and to please send him the pamphlet, which I did. After some research, he gave me the number of Medical Screening, which charges \$385 for the test. Being broke, I then called the health center on 17th Street, which told me to call the anonymous HIV test phone number, which referred me back to the health center on 17th Street. I explained that I had already called them, so she referred me to Ward 86 at SF General. Ward 86 said that if I came into the emergency room, I might get a doctor to refer me so that I can get the viral load test, but no guarantees. I also tried a few other phone numbers in the phone book that turned out to be dead ends.

And they wonder why the HIV rate is increasing? Hey, it's only 20 years into the epidemic, I guess it takes awhile to iron the kinks out of the system.

Ed Carlton
San Francisco

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at BARpaper@aol.com. Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.

POLITICS

Davis leads, Simon pleads

by Wayne Friday

The day after a Republican judge, appointed by former Governor **Pete Wilson**, reversed a jury verdict of \$78 million against his company for fraud, GOP gubernatorial nominee **Bill Simon** immediately went to work, spending the entire day appealing to Republican donors for funds he hopes will help put his campaign back on track.



Bill Simon

necessarily. Simon still has two other potentially damaging court cases to deal with, and **Tony Quinn**, a former Republican strategist who is now the editor of the *California Target Book*, which assesses political races, said, "He avoided the death blow [with the judge's ruling] but it doesn't solve his problems by far, because I think his campaign would have collapsed had the verdict stood up."

The judge's ruling, incidentally, will be appealed to a higher court, but, fortunately, for Simon, it will not be heard until after November 5.

Politics and people

In yet another Field Poll released last week, Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** (D) and Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** (D) were holding comfortable leads over the GOP opponents, **Bruce McPherson** and **Dick Ackerman** respectively, for the November 5 race. State Treasurer **Phil Angelides** (D) was leading his GOP challenger, **Greg Conlon**, in a close race; **Keith Olberg**, the GOP nominee, was actually leading San Francisco Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** (D) in a neck-and-neck race for secretary of state, but there's still an average of 34 percent "undecided" in all the statewide races. If Gray Davis does well against Bill Simon in the governor's race, the rest of the Democratic ticket appears safe in a state where Democrats out-registered Republicans by nearly 10 percentage points.

Interested in getting involved in the Care Not Cash effort (Proposition N)? Call (415) 731-1744 or visit www.carenocash.org. The San Francisco National Women's Political Committee endorsed the following supervisor candidates: **Gavin Newsom** (District 2), **Fiona Ma** (District 4), **Roger Gordon** (District 6), **Bevan Duffy** (District 8), and incumbent **Sophie Maxwell** in District 10.

The San Francisco Republican Party, however, says no (as in no endorsements) to all of the super candidates — seems no registered Republicans bothered to enter any of the races. The county GOP did, however, endorse Proposition N (Care Not Cash) and Proposition R (Home Ownership Program for Everyone).

Meanwhile, I inadvertently left out the following Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club endorsements in last week's column (and promptly heard about it). The club endorsed for the SF Board of Education: **Eddie Chin**, **Danny Guillory**, and **Dan Kelly**; for Community College Board of Trustees: **Lawrence Wong**, **Anita Grier**, and **Johnnie Carter**.

Several candidates for District 8 supervisor, including Bevan Duffy, **Eileen Hansen**, **Shawn O'Hearn**, and **Tom Radulovich** will square off in a candidate debate at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, on Tuesday, September 24. A social mixer starts at 6:30 p.m., followed by the debate from 7-9 p.m. The debate will be moderated by center Executive Director **Brian Cheu**. Those attending will have a chance to meet the candidates, listen to their perspective on the issues, and ask questions.

Her friends and supporters (and she seemingly has plenty of them) tell me that Deputy City Attorney **Kamala Harris** is a sure thing to run for district attorney next year, and yes, she'd make a good one.

Rita Moreno, **James C. Hormel**, **Denise Hale**, and **Michael Tilson Thomas** are hosting a silent art auction to help Assemblyman-to-be **Mark Leno** pay off his campaign debt on Thursday, September 26, 5:30-8 p.m. at the Serge Sorokko Gallery, 51 Grant Avenue (suggested donation: \$75; 415-395-9543 for info).

And U.S. Senators **Dianne Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, Representative **Nancy Pelosi**, and Mayor **Willie Brown** are part of the host committee for a fundraising reception for state Senator **Jack O'Connell** (D-San Luis Obispo), candidate for the nonpartisan state superintendent of public instruction, on Monday, September 30 at DeLancey Street Foundation

Club, 600 Embarcadero, 6-8 p.m. (\$100; 415-370-3313 for info).

Smile, you're on "Cleavage Cam": Love **Bill Clinton** or not, you've got to admit that his sex life and personal behavior are an easy target. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, friends and political allies of Bubba claim that he's being dogged by women trying to put him in compromising situations in front of flashing cameras. A typical example, the magazine noted, is of a woman in a low-cut top at an event trying to catch a gander from the ex-prez. The women often stand out as they try to re-create that classic rope-line scene with Clinton and **Monica Lewinsky**. Clinton's allies claim the supermarket tabloids are behind the gotcha effort. Paranoia, you say? Maybe not. Consider: During a recent Little Rock meet-and-greet, some claim a woman stepped from the receiving line and actually grabbed at Clinton's private parts. They say Clinton was shocked but went through with the picture-taking. The woman later claimed booze made her do it. Tacky publicity-seeking groupies or a set-up job? Clinton loyalists aren't pleased.

Washington, D.C. Mayor **Anthony Williams** overcame a ballot petition scandal and easily won a write-in campaign for the Democratic nomination last week, clearing the way for his re-election as mayor of the nation's capital.

Supposedly still some tickets left for tonight's (Thursday, September 19) big Macy's Passport 2002 fashion and compassion show at Fort Mason Center; Dame **Elizabeth Taylor** appears tonight (800-334-6158 or visit the Macy's Passport 20/02 Web site at www.macy's.com).

In Sacramento, the county Board of Supervisors last week voted to provide domestic partnership benefits for Sacramento County employees. The action reverses a longtime position of the board. Supervisor **Muriel Johnson** said she changed her mind after hearing from employees who struggled because their partners did not have medical insurance; it's unclear how many of the county's 14,000 employees will be affected.

And how was your week? ▼

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Big gov strikes again

by Dale Carpenter

He who pays the piper calls the tune. Harvard Law School recently got a reminder of this aphorism when the federal government threatened to cut off all funding for the school unless it ended its ban on military recruiting — a ban the school initiated to protest the military's discrimination against gays. For those who advocate the use of government power on behalf of gays, the episode should be a lesson in how that power may be turned against us.

For more than two decades Harvard Law School has refused to give military recruiters access to its career placement department. Such departments facilitate contacts between students and potential employers by setting up interviews conducted on school property. Most of those employers are private law firms, but federal and state government agencies also recruit for their legal departments.

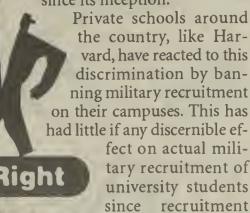
Like many law schools, Harvard bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and requires recruiters to pledge they will not discriminate against gays in their employment practices. For most private-sector law firms, especially the largest and most prestigious firms, this requirement is no problem since they already have policies barring such discrimination.

But the U.S. military cannot make this non-discrimination pledge. By federal law, passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton nine years ago, the military must expel known homosexuals. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," as the policy is called, has resulted in an increase in discharges for homosexuality in almost every year since its inception.

Private schools around the country, like Harvard, have reacted to this discrimination by banning military recruitment on their campuses. This has had little if any discernible effect on actual military recruitment of university students since recruitment continues off-campus and military recruiters are often invited to visit by student groups. The policies serve mostly as a symbolic statement of non-cooperation with state-sponsored anti-gay discrimination.

Nevertheless, Congress responded with a 1996 federal law known as the Solomon Amendment after its sponsor, Representative Gerald Solomon (R-New York). The Solomon Amendment makes federal funding for university research contingent on schools' allowing military recruitment on campus. In other words, "Let military recruiters on campus or we cut off your government money."

Although Harvard permits military recruiters at undergraduate job fairs and allows them to



visit the law school at the invitation of a student group, the U.S. Air Force recently informed the law school that the recruiting ban violates the Solomon Amendment. The Air Force threatened to recommend ending government funding to all of Harvard, not just the law school. That would have meant a loss of \$328 million a year, 16 percent of Harvard's operating budget, with serious repercussions for students' education, faculty work, and important research aided by money from the federal government.

Predictably, the law school's gay student group blamed the Bush administration for its "very heavy-handed approach to enforcing policy." However, the new get-tough line on military recruitment was first proposed by President Clinton's Defense Department in 2000. And, of course, Clinton signed the Solomon Amendment into law — another reward for all our hard work on his behalf.

Faced with this significant loss of federal money, the law school lifted its ban. In a letter to students and faculty, the dean wrote: "I have personally struggled with this issue. At the same time most of us reluctantly accept the reality that this university cannot afford the loss of federal funds."

If Harvard, by far the richest private university in the country, can be brought to its knees by threats from the federal government then no such institution will be able to resist.

next page ►

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GAY LIFE EVENTS

COMMENTARY

Two sides of the gender coin

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

A house divided against itself can not stand.

Okay, it may seem clichéd to begin with a quote, especially one from the Great Emancipator himself. I ask your forgiveness, this one time. You see, I see a division in our community, one that while nowhere near as explosive as that of which Abraham Lincoln spoke, can still end up splitting our community, leaving us weaker overall. As our community continues to grow, these lines are becoming clearer: an old guard versus a new guard.

I have to speak in stereotypes and generalities in order to explain them, so if you do not find a clear definition of yourself in the below, never fear – there's no clear answer for me here either.

The old guard is largely male-to-female, crossdresser, or transsexual identified. Many may have seen headlines of Christine Jorgenson back in the 1950s, or followed the life stories of Caroline "Tula" Cossey or Renée Richards in the 1970s. The mantra of the old guard has long been to fit in, to move quickly across the gender divide, rather than linger in any disputed border zone: there is only man and woman, and anything else doesn't count.

The new guard is a somewhat different animal. This group is largely female-to-male, and may eschew the transsexual or crossdresser labels, in favor of genderqueer, transgender, or any number of other personal choices. Many retain a foothold in the lesbian community, and might call themselves trans dykes or some similar choice of terms. This group is more interested in exploring that land between genders – or, at the least, feels that this is their place in the world. The binary just doesn't fit as well as it may on others.

In some ways, the split is generational, with the new guard coming up the ranks in a post-modernist world willing to deconstruct all things – including



gender – while the old guard comes more from a time when the roles of "man" and "woman" were clear and codified in our society.

It would seem that both sides would clearly be at loggerheads. With one group defining themselves against a binary, while the other would be happiest without a binary at all, well, things get very messy indeed.

Now I mentioned earlier that these definitions were generalities, and that I don't quite fit into either. I am much like a buffet menu, pulling an item from here and an item from there. While I am happy fitting in a given spot in the binary, I must also admit some deep fascination with the middle ground, this space that can be described as transgendered. I may be happy to be a woman, but I like this exploration, and can only see it as positive. Besides, I've done more than a little experimentation myself, before hanging the "woman" label around my neck.

Maybe it is my own desire to

see that exploration that makes me appreciate the ways of this new guard. I think it can only help to explore the nooks and crannies around gender. At the least, it can expand our definitions, and could well cause a complete rethinking of these binary notions of man and woman.

I have a foot in the old guard, too. There is something to be said for choosing to fit within a binary structure, if that is your choice. I looked at my options before self-identifying as a transgendered woman, and for all I know, I could identify as something entirely different as time goes on.

Likewise, I may happen to live a largely visible and out existence as a transgendered woman, but I can certainly understand – even appreciate – those who opt to live their lives in a much quieter way. If one feels that their life as a woman or a man requires that they not love in a border space, I cannot fault such an option. I can also point to times in my own past where I chose to keep parts of my life firmly shuttered away from others, and it was the best option for me at the time.

But it's time for me to get back to the quote that started this whole discussion. There are plenty out there who would rather we did not have the ability to explore outside the binary, or move from

one to another option along the binary. To these others, it doesn't matter if we are old or new guard – we are all a bunch of freaks. It's not evil geniuses in giant underground lairs I'm talking about either, though I can envision the likes of Fred Phelps riding around on a private monorail under a hollowed-out volcano. It goes from the leaders of the religious right all the way down to the average person on the street.

It is those people who would be more than happy to see us continue to remain a divided community, with neither side pulling from the strengths of the other. Struggling against ourselves keeps us weak, and powerless to effect change. It is what keeps our lawmakers from supporting us on a

national level, and what keeps our visibility at the level of Jerry Springer.

We can change this – if we look at each other, see where our strengths truly lie, and choose to learn from each other. Take a moment and explore, seek out the stories of those opposite your side of the fence, and see just what you can take from their stories – you may discover that our house can stand after all. ▼

Gwen Smith must be a member of the newer old guard, or maybe the older new guard – or something. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.



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The point here is not to defend university bans on military recruitment. That is a hard call, involving as it does the application of an important principle (non-discrimination) to a matter of national need (military recruitment) in a time of crisis (the war on terrorism and a potential war against Iraq). The bans are probably justifiable given the trivial impact they have on actual recruitment. But a good, and not necessarily homophobic, argument can be made against such bans. Further, private educational institutions can call attention to the military's discrimination without completely banning recruiting.

The point, instead, is to highlight the power the state wields when it grows to the point that it insinuates itself into almost every aspect of our lives. Almost no one – even the most stingy fiscal conservative – seriously opposes government funding for medical research, scientific studies, student loans, and similar good causes.

Yet the government that gives so generously with one hand can

smack us with the other. As the Harvard experience demonstrates, even the richest and most powerful of us can become dependent on government sponsorship. The larger the role of the state in our lives the more often we'll find ourselves in a conflict between what we want to do and what the government wants us to do. And we'll find the call to heel as irresistible as Harvard did.

Some gay rights advocates seem sanguine about using state power to make life better for gays. Hate crimes laws, employment discrimination protections, funding for community and AIDS groups, and other measures call on government to help us in some way.

At least some of these measures are surely worthwhile. But we must recognize they come at the cost of an expanded state, a state whose ends we will not always control. That should counsel considerable caution whenever someone proposes we surrender a little freedom for a little help from our government friend. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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Petaluma pot club raided; rally on Monday

by Liz Highleyman

In the latest sign of the federal government's stepped-up war on medical marijuana, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration raided a medical cannabis dispensary in Petaluma on September 12.

The Genesis cannabis dispensary and an associated marijuana garden in Sebastopol received visits from DEA agents last Thursday morning. Genesis director Robert Schmidt was arrested.

The North Bay action follows closely on the heels of a raid on the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana in Santa Cruz on September 5. WAMM directors Valerie and Mike Corral, who were released after the raid, have not yet been indicted.

Americans for Safe Access activated its emergency response network for the second time in two weeks, calling on medical marijuana advocates to protest at federal sites across the country. Locally activists and medical marijuana patients turned out at noon at the Federal Buildings in San Francisco and Oakland last week.

"We are shocked that the DEA would make medical marijuana its top priority while the rest of the country is at a high state of alert," said ASA executive director Steph Sherer. "While the country

was on orange alert on September 11, 30 DEA agents were busily plotting an attack on the medical marijuana community. The president warned us of an attack, but he didn't tell us it would be from our own government."

Medical cannabis advocates are planning a major protest this Monday, September 23, in Sacramento. ASA is calling on patients, caregivers, medical professionals, activists, and other concerned citizens to come out in mass to protest the recent DEA raids and federal persecution of patients in compliance with Proposition 215, the California Compassionate Use Act of 1996.

The demonstration will coincide with the sentencing hearing for medical marijuana patient and grower Bryan Epis, who faces a federal 10-year mandatory minimum prison sentence. Epis was arrested in June 1997 for growing cannabis for the Chico Medical Marijuana Caregivers dispensary and was convicted by a federal jury in July. His is the first case in which California medical marijuana prosecution reached a federal jury.

Monday's actions – dubbed Medical Cannabis Freedom Day – will include a morning protest and press conference at the federal courthouse and a noon rally at the state Capitol. The rally will feature numerous speakers including San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, representatives

from the offices of state Attorney General Bill Lockyer and state Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), and the directors of several local medical marijuana organizations. Civil disobedience actions may also take place, sources said.

ASA is also planning supportive actions in Washington, D.C., the same day and has called for candlelight vigils in various locations on Sunday, September 22.

At the Sacramento rally, medical cannabis supporters will kick off a petition drive demanding clemency for Epis and calling for state officials to stand up for California's medical marijuana law.

The California Supreme Court ruled in July that "the possession and cultivation of marijuana is no more criminal – so long as [the state law's] conditions are satisfied – than the possession and acquisition of any prescription drug with a physician's prescription." However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against medical cannabis providers in May 2000, and the federal government contends that federal drug statutes supersede state law. ▼

The Medical Cannabis Freedom Day protest will take place at 9 a.m. at the federal courthouse, 501 I Street, in Sacramento. For more information visit www.safaccessnow.org.

Canada panel calls for marijuana law reform

by Liz Highleyman

A Canadian legislative committee has endorsed "compassion clubs" for patients who use medicinal cannabis. Interestingly, the news came on September 4, the day before U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents carried out a raid against a California medical marijuana club in Santa Cruz.

After two years of study, the Canadian Senate Special Committee on Illegal Drugs last week issued a 600-page report entitled "Cannabis: Our Position for a Canadian Public Policy."

The report urges Parliament to institute drug law reforms to allow the regulated use of marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes, with licenses for producing and selling the drug.

"Scientific evidence overwhelmingly indicates that cannabis is substantially less harmful than alcohol and should be treated not as a criminal issue but as a social and public health issue," said committee chair Senator Pierre Claude Nolin. "[W]e have come to the conclusion that, as a drug, it should be regulated by the state much as we do for wine and beer, hence our preference for legalization over criminalization."

Compared to statements from U.S. officials, the report is shockingly frank in its criticism of existing drug policies and refreshing in its reliance on evidence over ideology.

Acknowledging that current policies have been a "complete failure" in curbing marijuana consumption, the committee instead recommends a harm reduction approach, stating that prevention messages should be "credible, verifiable, and neutral" and "take into account contemporary knowledge about drugs."

The report distinguishes between normal and excessive use of cannabis, recognizing that "[m]ost users are not at-risk users insofar as their use is regulated, irregular, and temporary." The committee also notes that cannabis dependence is "less severe and less frequent" than dependence on alcohol or tobacco.

Regarding medical use, the committee refutes many of the arguments put forth by U.S. drug warriors. "It is not a question of defending general public policy on marijuana or even all illegal drugs. It is not a question of sending a symbolic message about 'drugs.' It is not a question of being afraid that young people will use marijuana if it is approved as a medicine," the report states.

"The question, and the only question, for physicians as professionals is whether, to what extent, and in what circumstances, marijuana serves a therapeutic purpose."

The committee notes that cannabis has therapeutic benefits for conditions such as pain, nausea, and appetite loss – a conclusion also reached by the U.S. Institute of Medicine and others.

The Canadian legislators recommend that only activities that

cause demonstrable harm to others – including driving under the influence, trafficking, and sale to minors under age 16 – should be prohibited.

Other recommendations include increased funding for marijuana research and amnesty for anyone convicted of cannabis possession under current or past law.

Recognizing that its recommendations will likely cause friction with the U.S., the committee suggests that Canada should use its good international reputation to attempt to amend United Nations drug treaties.

The committee's recommendations are not binding, and a House of Commons committee is working on a similar report, due in November, that many expect will be less liberal. Nevertheless, drug reform advocates hope the latest report will influence the government to reconsider existing laws – a process that already appears to be under way. In July, Justice Minister Maurice Cauchon said he was considering decriminalization of marijuana possession, replacing jail sentences with fines. And following an appeals court ruling in 2000, the Canadian government has amended laws to allow medical marijuana use in certain circumstances; it is expected to begin a clinical trial this fall or winter that will provide cannabis to some 800 patients. ▼

The full report is available at www.parl.gc.ca/illegal-drugs.asp.

Dist. 6 supe candidates debate in forum

by Joe Dignan

On Sunday, September 15, while 400,000 spectators watched Charles Dione besting Lance Armstrong and 180 world champion cyclists as they circled San Francisco, about 40 political stalwarts watched seven of the nine candidates for District 6 supervisor circle the issues in a forum in the basement auditorium of San Francisco's State Building.

Incumbent Chris Daly was the most conspicuous no-show, but sent a letter with a campaign worker saying that one of the sponsoring organizations (the San Francisco District 6 Democratic Club) had already come out against him – and so, he felt, he would not get a fair hearing.

Daly was a tenant organizer who was elected on a platform opposing gentrification in the Mission and has worked, according to an aide, to implement "the strongest renter protections in a decade" and improve city funding of HIV/AIDS programs.

But Daly's radical stances on rent control and homelessness have angered some of the more moderate voters in one of the city's poorest but also most heterogeneous districts that includes not only the Tenderloin but also Cathedral Hill, the newly gentrified neighborhoods in South Beach and South Park, much of the South of Market area plus Yerba Buena and Treasure islands.

So the District 6 race has polarized into Daly versus what Daly's opponents call ABCD, that is, Anybody But Chris Daly. The problem for his opponents is that "anybody" is not on the ballot, and none of the rival candidates have managed to generate much enthusiasm among voters so far.

Not surprisingly, given the dis-



From left, District 6 candidates Michael Sweet, Garrett Jenkins, Arthur Jackson, Robert Power, Malinka Moye, Burke Strunsky, and Roger Gordon.

concern in the district is homelessness." He questions the effectiveness of the city's current programs, which now cost \$200 million per year. He would implement a special court system, modeled on a similar program in New York City, to deal with so-called quality of life crimes, most often committed by homeless people, to get those people out of the judicial system and "get them some help."

Sweet is a lawyer specializing in business litigation. A resident of South Beach, he has been active in neighborhood politics where he said he helped to get a \$12 million redevelopment grant to improve open space around the South Beach Harbor.

James Lee Dunn, who was the other no-show at the forum, will be remembered as the man who devised the idea, in his run for the same seat in 2000, of a tunnel under Ellis and Taylor streets where the homeless could be sheltered from the elements.

"They would dig it themselves and be paid \$49 an hour," recalled forum organizer Frederick Hobson. "For \$49 an hour, honey, I'd be in there digging myself."

There will be two more District 6 candidate forums before the November 5 general election. The first is Tuesday, October 8 at Cesar Chavez Hall, 1885 Mission Street, 3rd floor, at 5:45 p.m. and is sponsored by the Human Services Network. The second is on Thursday, October 24 in the Main Library's Koret Auditorium at 6 p.m. and is sponsored by the League of Women Voters. ▼

trict's differing constituencies, most of the candidates talked about consensus building.

"My first job will be to build a consensus on the board," said Arthur Jackson.

"I'm a consensus builder," said Burke Strunsky.

"We need to be working together," said Michael Sweet.

The candidate who manages to reconcile the politics of the haves with the have-nots, of South Beach with the Tenderloin, may have a shot at forcing Daly into a runoff. Daly needs 50 percent plus one vote on November 5 to win outright. Otherwise he will face the next highest vote getter on December 10.

The field

Roger Gordon is an MBA who says he is new to San Francisco politics. He was the executive director of Urban Solutions, a non-profit economic development corporation. He said that he is pro rent control, but against Supervisor Tony Hall's HOPE (Home Ownership Program for Everyone) measure that would make condo conversions easier.

"I don't have any possibility of buying a house," he said, "especially if I get elected to the Board of Supervisors."

The job currently pays \$37,000 a year.

Jackson runs a personnel agency. He was appointed to the San Francisco Health Commission from 1992 to 1996 and served as president for two years. He was reappointed to the Health Commission in 2001 and resigned September 10. He cited his experience as his main qualification for the job.

"It's a serious job and it needs a serious person," he said, but got the biggest laugh for the biggest gaffe of the afternoon as he lauded his ability to work with women.

Talking about his work with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), he said, "There's not a woman around

I haven't worked on."

Garrett Jenkins is the only out gay candidate in the group. He was a Navy pilot. He says the main problem facing the district is housing – which he proposes to build in South Beach and China Basin.

Malinka Moye is currently facing drug possession charges (see story below). He said he is "looking for people who want to make changes in the system."

Robert N. Power is the Libertarian candidate who charges that "San Francisco spends more per capita than any other city in America," and that we "need to restrict the power of city government."

Strunsky is on leave from the San Francisco District Attorney's office where he was an assistant district attorney for three years. He said that the "number one

District 6 candidate faces drug charges

by Joe Dignan

District 6 supervisorial candidate Malinka Moye is currently facing drug possession charges that stem from an arrest in January.

According to the arresting officer's report, Moye was allegedly in possession of three "off-white rocks" which the officer, Aileen Brady, "suspected [to be] crack cocaine." Brady's report also states that Moye attempted to dispose of another "off-white rock" and a clear glass pipe by dropping them behind the tire of a parked car.

Moye has pleaded not guilty to the charges and asserts that the arrest was an attempt by police to frame him. "They'll make up anything to make more money," Moye said. "When you come into the system, they'll just throw a charge at you."

"I've tried coke," Moye said, "but I really don't have a drug problem. I've never had a serious drug problem, to say that I need a rehab program – I say, no. No."

Moye was also arrested on March 19 – in an incident that police called "bizarre" – for allegedly killing and butchering a goat in a vacant lot near the Potrero Hill Recreation Center on Arkansas Street. According to the police report, Moye stated that he "tied the goat's hind leg to a pole and hit [it] three times in the head with a 60-pound brick until it was dead." According to the report, Moye stated that he "thought eating the meat would make him stronger at the gym."

The charges of animal cruelty were later dismissed by the district attorney's office.

Moye said, however, that the most serious criminal charge he has faced – for assault with a deadly weapon – was the result of a February 1999 incident when he was arrested for allegedly attacking another man in another, apparently drug-related crime.

According to the police report, at the time of his arrest Moye told officers that, "That guy was smoking crack with my girl, so I got mad and pushed him down the stairs." According to the report, the victim said that Moye also hit him on the back of the head with a weight plate causing a large cut. Those charges were also ultimately dismissed.

At press time, Moye was scheduled to stand trial on the most recent drug charges on Wednesday, September 18. ▼

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Broken Window?

Lawsuit filed against publisher of gay newspapers

by Bob Roehr

A lawsuit for nonpayment, filed by two former owners of the *Washington Blade*, is another sign of the perilous condition of Window Media, the holding company that last year purchased the gay newspaper and its sister publication the *New York Blade News* for approximately \$3.6 million. The company also owns gay newspapers in Atlanta and Houston, and closed one in New Orleans that it had purchased.

Donald J. Michaels and James H. Lamont Jr., former publisher and assistant publisher and prin-

ciple stockholders of the *Blades*, filed suit in Washington, D.C. Superior Court against Window Media for nonpayment of money owed them as part of that sale. The August 9 filing unlocked a wealth of information on the heretofore private deal.

Purchase of the *Blades* was completed on May 16, 2001, partly financed with a \$1 million loan from Silicon Valley Bank in Santa Clara, California. A venture capital firm provided a portion of the cash by investing in Window Media. And Michaels and Lamont also agreed to finance a share of the deal through a deferral of payments and interest to them that would stretch out over seven years.

The new management team of publisher William Waybourn and executive editor Chris Crain got off to a rocky start when employees of the *Washington Blade*, far and away the largest and most financially secure of their newspapers, petitioned to form a union. Window Media was able to defeat a union vote through a combination of enticing offers to employees and promoting some into management where they would be unable to join a union.

Turmoil reportedly continues to haunt the newsroom. The *Washington* paper has gone through three news editors, it has not replaced its only staff photographer who resigned more than a year ago, and few editorial employees remain from pre-purchase days.

The *New York* paper has cut publication from weekly to every other week and has lost its entire editorial staff. The office is being

run by an employee on temporary assignment from Atlanta.

The position of chief financial officer and controller for Window Media also has been a revolving door, with three people passing through in little more than a year.

Follow the money

Rumors circulating at the time of the purchase pegged the deal in the \$3-4 million dollar range, a figure that many observers felt would burden the company with debt and financial expectations that Window Media would be unable to support.

Newspaper ad revenue had been at its peak when the company initiated discussions on purchasing the *Blades*. A year passed before the deal was completed and newspaper ad revenue had begun to nose-dive, but the purchase was not reevaluated in that light.

The financial underpinnings of the purchase seem to have come apart practically from the start. In a letter dated February 12, 2002, Silicon Valley Bank issued a notice of default by Window Media on its \$1 million loan. Standard banking practice is to try to work out these types of issues prior to issuing a formal letter. It suggests that Window Media had not been compliant with its agreement for some time.

Window Media in turn used its nonpayment to the bank to argue that it was no longer obligated to pay the full purchase price. It sought to adjust downward the amount that it owed Michaels and Lamont — by some \$428,350. It failed to make payments to the

pair scheduled for May 16.

This cascade of events caused Michaels and Lamont to seek legal redress and culminated with filing their lawsuit on August 9. They seek accelerated payment of all that is owed them, as is stipulated in a provision of the sale agreement, and barring that, foreclosure and return of their property, the *Blades*.

Gay City News, a New York City competitor with a history of antagonism toward the *Blade*, broke the story in its September 13 edition. The article reported that none of the principles would discuss the issues with the media.

The coverage prompted Waybourn to issue a memo on Monday, September 16 to Window Media staff in which he tried to attribute any financial difficulties to the fact that, "Last year was the worst year in 50 years of newspaper advertising and this year is the second worst year."

But the annual Gay Press Report, also released on September 16, painted a different picture. "Spending in print advertising overall dropped 6.2 percent in 2001 — but gay advertising saw only a slight drop of 1.7 percent after several years of rapid growth."

The number of ad pages in the *Washington Blade* since the purchase appears to be similar to or perhaps even greater than in recent years prior to that purchase.

Waybourn claimed in the memo, "The gay communities in each of our cities are far better served by our combination of resources." ▼

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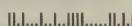


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we could go back to using them.

"It isn't just that the sex 'feels better' and is 'more spontaneous' (we have been together 10 years, nothing much is spontaneous). Sex is not only just 'better' without a condom, it is somehow more meaningful and emotionally connected. I don't know why that is, but I know that it is how we feel and that is important to us."

Barr recounted how "for centuries" gay men "have placed ourselves in great physical, emotional, and legal danger because fulfilling our sexual desire is so important to (some of) us." He took pains not to denigrate the importance of prevention, "but unless we understand and value the importance of our sexual activity, we cannot be successful in our prevention efforts."

What can be done?

One part of the equation is simply to make condoms more available. Fishbowls of condoms, once ubiquitous at gay bars, have slowly disappeared in most cities. Some AIDS services organizations have discontinued those programs, either through lack of interest or lack of funding. But just as often, some bar owners and managers have decided that such reminders of safer sex "destroy the mood" they are trying to create and so have banned safer sex education and condoms.

San Francisco remains an exception. Condoms are widely available at AIDS organizations, gay bars, and many businesses through a program operated by the Department of Public Health and contracted through the Stop AIDS Project.

Brian Varner, writing from Tennessee, wrote of the importance of education. While he does

not prefer abstinence-only programs, he supports them because "at least they're talking about [sexually transmitted] diseases and giving them names and teaching the medical science aspects, which my generation in my geographic region didn't get."

"HIV-negs have a responsibility, but my experience [working in prevention with adolescents] has shown me that it is much easier to be cavalier about risk when that risk is still nebulous and undefined," added Reggie Miller. "I'm often amazed by their ability to spit back safer sex platitudes while still having NO real comprehension or understanding of the terms involved." He has found that talking with people who are positive and on treatment helps to bring the message home.

Carter supports the idea of eroticizing the use of condoms, but he acknowledged the dichotomy of reconciling that with "the notion that this act I'm about to engage in has risks."

In a private conversation, Grossman spoke with dismay of the appearance of "raw" gay porn. And even when condoms are used in videos, they seem to "magically appear," putting them on never made part of the erotic experience of sex.

"Instead of focusing on safety, prevention efforts need to look at what's really going on in sexual relationships and then teach skills for relationships that work better in all ways," said John James, editor of AIDS Treatment News.

Grossman sees recreational drug use as an important contributor to unsafe practices. He tries to counsel his patients on being "smart" in using those drugs, such as limiting use to dance clubs and situations not involving sex. ▼

Green Party's Peter Camejo advocates for civil unions

by Matthew S. Bajko

Unlike the two major party candidates in the California governor's race, Green Party candidate Peter Camejo would support equal civil rights for same-sex couples if elected leader of the state.

Camejo, a 61-year-old Venezuelan American, is the only candidate to unequivocally support extending the same rights and benefits to same-sex domestic partners that are now awarded to heterosexual married couples.

"We are 100 percent for equal rights for gays and lesbians. It is a basic premise of our belief system," Camejo told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview earlier this month.

While Democratic incumbent Governor Gray Davis signed into law the nation's most sweeping domestic partnership legislation last fall, he is against gay marriage. And Davis has yet to support civil unions for same-sex couples.

In an interview in the spring, Davis told the *B.A.R.* that he was establishing a task force to examine how California could implement civil unions such as Vermont has done. Yet due to the budget stalemate lasting throughout the summer, that task force has yet to meet. While Davis said he would wait to make a decision on civil unions until the task force completed its work, any report on the issue is unlikely to be released prior to the November election.

Bill Simon, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, is also opposed to gay marriage and has waffled on his support for domestic partnership laws. In August, Simon said in a response to a Log Cabin Republicans' questionnaire that he "would not support undoing any of the rights that currently are available under the law" for domestic partnerships and stated he "would be open about adding rights and responsibilities as would be appropriate and justified."



Green Party candidate Peter Camejo

Simon later rescinded those comments and disavowed ever having seen the questionnaire or his responses to it in an effort to appease conservative members of his party. In a letter to Republican state Senator Ray Haynes (Riverside), Simon stated that he opposes "creating a special class of domestic partnership laws that is defined by sexual orientation or preference."

Camejo calls such stands by Simon and Davis as signs they lack leadership and are out of step with California voters. He especially took Davis to task for not being a stronger supporter of gay rights.

"Davis, he decides bills based on what he feels would benefit him the best," Camejo told the *B.A.R.* "He is against gay marriage not because he personally opposes it but because he determined it would hurt his career."

As for Simon, Camejo said he felt sorry for him when he was attacked for supporting gay Pride. He said convincing moderate Republicans would be essential if the state were ever to pass a civil unions bill.

"I thought it was great when he said he supported gay Pride. But

he still was walking around the real issue. He is still putting gay sexuality and lesbianism in a category not to talk about," said Camejo.

Camejo likened the voters' choice between the major party candidates as having to choose the lesser of two evils.

"That choice between the two is like saying 'Who would you pick: Hitler or Mussolini?' Most people would pick Mussolini, but it is not a good choice to be supporting Mussolini," said Camejo.

On the issue of medical marijuana, Camejo said he supports decriminalizing the drug and would instead place more focus on anti-tobacco measures.

"I would let everybody out of jail associated with marijuana," he said. "As for the government's concept of fighting drugs, they've got it backwards. You end supply be ending demand."

His name recognition lacking in the race, and Davis refusing to debate with him, Camejo makes no pretense that he has a chance to carry the election. But as voter disapproval grows with his opponents, Camejo is garnering more attention from both ethnic and mainstream media outlets.

"The reason I am running is that we feel the two major parties are money-dominated and we really need to start building an alternative party," said Camejo, who ran for president in 1976 as a socialist.

A resident of Walnut Creek, Camejo is chair and founder of Progressive Asset Management, which promotes socially responsible investments. He is currently a county-appointed trustee of the Contra Costa County Employees Retirement Association and is an adviser to the Hawaii Capital Stewardship Forum.

He refutes the charge that a vote for him will in fact lead to a vote for Simon. He said if Davis loses the race, he has only himself to blame.

"He spent \$10 million to get

Simon nominated. But if Simon gets elected, he is going to blame me," said Camejo. "My goal absolutely is not to get Simon elected. I am running to stop Simon and Davis."

This weekend, the local Green Party will begin canvassing city streets to raise awareness of Camejo's campaign. They hope his candidacy will draw more progressive voters to the polls who would otherwise not bother to vote and are not worried such efforts will hinder Davis's chances.

"Peter is doing us a huge favor of driving people to the polls and adding hope to the race. I don't think people are racing to the polls to vote for Davis," said San Francisco Green Party member Susan C. King, who is the California Green Party's co-chair for campaigns and candidates. "Bill Simon is an idiot. If Gray Davis loses to Bill Simon, he is an even bigger idiot."

For more information about Camejo, visit his campaign Web site at www.votecamejo.org. ▼

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Gay Games

◀ page 1

extreme violence of gay bashings in Australia has also raised questions about how organizers intend to protect the throngs of gay men and lesbians they will be hosting.

Although the report, released by the Australian Institute of Criminology in August, reviewed gay bashing incidents over a 20-year period, it led to such headlines as "Aussies Bash Poofers For Sport" in gay newspapers around the world.

The study found that the perpetrators of the attacks tend to be teenagers and the incidents involve a high level of brutality. Many of the cases remain unsolved, and those that are prosecuted, the attackers are often acquitted or receive significantly reduced sentences after claiming they were fighting off a sexual advance.

"In many cases, it is aggressive, young men having a few drinks and then going out for the hunt, for sport, to find a few poofers to beat up — and they get carried away," Dr. Adam Graycar, director of the crime institute, told the *New Zealand Herald*.

The report's release coincided

with the start of an intense advertising campaign to attract gay travelers to Australia. Games organizers contend that Australia is no less safe than any other country that has hosted the Gay Games.

"It is our understanding the report to which you refer was looking at incidents over a long period of time, and there is no evidence of a rise in gay bashings in Sydney or anywhere else in Australia. While there are, unfortunately, incidents of violence that take place against gay men and lesbians from time to time, Sydney has a well-deserved reputation as a city of great tolerance and freedom of expression," Jones said in his e-mail.

Added Malcolm Griffiths, the Australian Tourist Commission's media relations coordinator, "From my own experience as a resident of Sydney and recent conversations with friends at home, I would suggest there is no 'fear' or any indication that Sydney is an unsafe place for gays and lesbians. Of course, as in any big city, one should not become complacent."

Griffiths, who now works in Los Angeles and resides in West Hollywood, pointed to the recent gay bashings in that city that have left one man in a coma as an ex-

ample that no matter where gay men or lesbians live, there is always a threat of violence.

"I'm a resident of West Hollywood and the recent gay bashings here have been a shock to me, as well as an important reminder to always be wary and not to take things for granted, no matter where you are," he said.

Even before the release of the report, the safety of their guests has been a concern to the Games organizers. All participants have been provided with safety tips and precautionary advice in their advance travel information and more information will be included in their on-site registration welcome packets.

"Hosts always provide medical, police, and fire emergency contact numbers, contacts at gay and lesbian support groups, maps of the city, recommendations about neighborhoods to enjoy, and the like," explained Carson. "Participants will receive information specific to their venues and environments. There is also a centralized host contact office during the Games for participants looking for local assistance and tips. In that regard, the Gay Games functions exactly like a convention in any city." ▼

Medi-Cal coverage for gender reassignment procedures

by Rebecca Ledwith, Bay Area Legal Aid and Chris Daley, National Center for Lesbian Rights

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Project that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-varient, and genderqueer communities.

Q: Does Medi-Cal cover gender reassignment?

A: Yes! Despite what many Medi-Cal recipients have heard, Medi-Cal will cover some procedures. It is true that Medi-Cal regularly tries to deny coverage for gender reassignment procedures. However, California courts have, on several occasions, overruled these denials and ordered Medi-Cal to pay for them.

Because it is likely that Medi-Cal will continue to automatically deny many requests for treatment (especially those for any kind of surgical procedure), applicants should prepare their requests with that in mind. This column contains suggestions on filing an effective request and information about getting help in filing an appeal if your request is denied by Medi-Cal.

What types of procedures might be covered?

Medi-Cal may cover hormone treatment, gender reassignment surgery (GRS), and other necessary procedures. Medi-Cal is required by law to evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis. They must approve those requests that they find to be medically necessary so long as the procedure is not considered to be "experimental." Medi-Cal's definition of experimental does not include gender reassignment surgery.

What steps do I need to take to get Medi-Cal to cover gender reassignment procedures?

The first thing you'll need to do is find a health care provider who is registered with Medi-Cal. Anyone who is providing you health services related to your transition should be able to become a Medi-Cal provider.

Providers who are not already signed up with Medi-Cal should be encouraged to do so. Your provider can get more information on registering with Medi-Cal by calling (800) 541-5555.

If getting gender reassignment surgery is a part of your prescribed or desired medical treatment, you are likely to have a difficult time finding an experienced surgeon who accepts Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal clients in the San Fran-

cisco Bay Area can call the Transgender Law Project at (415) 392-6257, ext. 308 for help in finding a local provider.

A TAR for GRS

To begin the process, your surgeon will need to submit a treatment authorization request (TAR) to Medi-Cal. A TAR is a detailed report that explains why the services you are requesting are medically necessary and should be paid for by Medi-Cal.

Your TAR is

incredibly important in getting your request approved. You'll need to work with your provider in order to ensure that the best possible request is submitted. Your TAR should include letters from your therapist or therapists, a letter from your primary physician, and a letter from you. These letters should all explain why the requested procedure is medically necessary for you.

How long does it take to get a decision?

Medi-Cal has 30 days to take action on the TAR. It can sometimes take longer if your request is complicated. When Medi-Cal has made a decision, they will send letters to you and your provider.

What should I do if Medi-Cal denies coverage?

If Medi-Cal decides not to pay for the services that you requested, they will send you a "Notice of Action." You should use the form on the back of this notice to request a state "Fair Hearing." You have 90 days from the date you received your Notice of Action letter to file your request. Once your request is processed, you will be given a date for a hearing. You are strongly encouraged to seek legal help or representation for the hearing.

Where can I get a lawyer?

If you live in the Bay Area and are low-income, Bay Area Legal Aid provides free legal help. You can reach them at (415) 982-1300. If you live outside of the Bay Area, the Transgender Law Project may be able to help you find an attorney close to you.

If you choose not to use an attorney, or one is not available in your area, you should ask a friend, relative, or community advocate to help you prepare your case. This person should also go with you to your hearing.

What additional info should I give to Medi-Cal before I go to the state hearing?

At the state hearing, the judge will be looking for evidence that gender reassignment is medically necessary for you. You should provide as much evidence as you can to prove that this is true. This can include letters from other health care providers, updated medical reports, letters from friends and family, and/or social science reports that discuss gender identity disorder. You can contact the Transgender Law Project for copies of appropriate reports.

What happens after the hearing?

The judge looks at all of the evidence from both sides and renders a decision. The law says that you must receive a decision within 90 days of filing your request for a hearing (unless you waive that right in writing).

What can I do if I lose at the state hearing?

If the judge rules to deny you coverage, you have the right to a rehearing. If you lose the rehearing, you have the right to appeal the decision in California Superior Court.

You should also be aware of something called an "alternate decision." If the judge grants you coverage, the director of Medi-Cal has the power to overrule the decision. If the director does this in your case (it sometimes happens in gender reassignment applications), you'll have to appeal the director's decision in California Superior Court. If you decide to go to Superior Court and have not already obtained legal assistance, we strongly advise that you do so at this stage.

Special issues to consider

If you have not already heard of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, you will probably begin to hear about them as you enter this process. The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association has created guidelines for providing health services to people with gender identity disorder (GID). Not all

transgender people have GID. Of those who do, some choose to utilize these guidelines as a way to plan the health care they will receive.

Some successful Medi-Cal applicants and health care advocates believe that the best way to apply for Medi-Cal coverage is by following these guidelines. Their argument is that Medi-Cal is most likely to find a procedure "medically necessary" if you can prove that it is a part of these physician and psychiatrist-approved treatment guidelines. While we are not advocating these guidelines as the only health care plan that Medi-Cal will find "medically necessary," we believe that applications that follow them have a greater chance of being approved. You can access the guidelines on the Internet at: www.hbigda.org.

What if I have chosen to be part of an HMO as my Medi-Cal service provider?

Some HMOs deny gender reassignment to their members. If you are a member of an HMO that will not cover gender reassignment, Medi-Cal should still cover the cost.

Your medical provider must first send the treatment request to the HMO. The provider will receive a denial of payment. The provider then has to send that denial along with a TAR to Medi-Cal for payment. If Medi-Cal denies the TAR, you can request a state Fair Hearing. (See above section.)

Will Medi-Cal cover electrolysis or other necessary procedures related to transitioning?

It is unclear what services Medi-Cal considers medically necessary for gender reassignment. Possible covered procedures include tracheal shave, breast construction (for MTFs), and electrolysis.

If you are in need of any procedure as a part of your transition, you should get help from a medical health care professional who is a Medi-Cal provider and follow the application steps set out in this pamphlet to request coverage for the procedure. If Medi-Cal denies coverage, see the above section on what to do if Medi-Cal denies coverage.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

The Transgender Law Project is co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Pride Law Fund. If you have questions about gender identity discrimination or are a transgender, intersex, gender-varient, and/or genderqueer person with other legal questions, please feel free to contact the project's coordinator and Tom Steel Fellow, Chris Daley, at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or e-mail daley@nclrights.org. You can request a Spanish-language pamphlet containing this same information by contacting the Transgender Law Project. This column is available in Spanish. Contact TLP to request a free copy.

Unity Project Wants You!

If you meet with an interviewer/facilitator at UCSF's health and well-being study, the Unity Project, we want to keep in touch.

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Steve May loses primary

by Bob Roehr

Steve May lost his bid for re-election to the Arizona state Legislature in a Republican primary race that was not decided until all of the absentee votes were counted. The defeat puts at least a temporary hold on what had been a short but promising political career for the 30-year-old out gay politician.

May was a strong proponent of gay-inclusive legislation and challenged the Pentagon's anti-gay policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" when he was called up into the Army Reserves.

His political problems began when an independent redistricting commission drew lines that threw three Republican incumbents into District 11, home to the state's two U.S. senators, current governor, and other political heavyweights. Only two would emerge from the heavily Republican district.

May was considered one of the favorites, in part because he raised about \$150,000, a considerable sum for the race. And on election night he clung to the second seat with a 13-vote margin over the third-place finisher.

But when absentee votes were



Steve May

counted, the three candidates had divided the vote almost evenly. May was in third place with 8,074 votes, 58 votes out of second place and 220 votes from the top contender.

The state Senate race in District 11 also pitted two incumbents against each other, and on election night they were separated by only 38 votes.

"We're brokenhearted," said Jason Young, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the nonpartisan group that helps elect openly gay and lesbian candidates to office. "It points out the

importance of every vote and of supporting our candidates."

Rich Tafel was "surprised" by the loss. The executive director of Log Cabin Republicans said he had not heard that May was in trouble. "He's done so much for the community already, I'm sure that he'll be back into politics."

May was unavailable for comment as he was serving as an election observer in Macedonia. That Balkan nation has suffered violent ethnic strife and on Sunday threw out the governing coalition parties.

In a conversation earlier this year, May had speculated about running for other offices. He had completed two terms in office and state law limits office holders to three consecutive terms.

In another Republican primary race, in Scottsdale, Arizona, openly gay candidate Thom Von Hapsburg, 38, told the *Arizona Republic* that he thought he was the victim of gay bashing that was not connected with his ballot opponents.

He said the trouble started when a far-right Christian newsletter criticized his sexual orientation. After that, campaign signs were torn down, excrement was smeared on his front porch and door, wires were ripped from the lawn sprinkler system, and his car was vandalized. ▼

'Heavy petting' coming to a park near you

by Zak Szymanski

Bay Area dog lovers are invited to attend several upcoming events that support local nonprofits, including Rocket Dog Rescue's "Big Bark in Dolores Park" next month, and the annual "Doggone Fun Run" in Golden Gate Park hosted by Pets Are Wonderful Support this Sunday, September 22.

Rocket Dog Rescue, founded last year by HIV/AIDS and animal activist Pali Boucher, is the last resort for dogs in overcrowded animal shelters who are about to be euthanized. Rocket Dog has already rescued about 100 dogs from certain doom and fostered them until they could be adopted. Next on Rocket Dog's agenda is the development of the Urban Sanctuary Project, which will provide a central facility to help save hundreds more dogs from needless death.

To benefit the Urban Sanctuary, Rocket Dog will present "The Big Bark" on Saturday, October 5, from 1-4 p.m. in Dolores Park. The event features live folk and jazz music, refreshments, dog treats and events, and a "Rocket Dog Parade" of adopted and adoptable dogs. The Big Bark is free, and well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome.

Also presented by Rocket Dog is a Rocket Dogwash this Saturday, September 21, at Whole Foods Market, 1765 California Street, at Franklin. For a small fee, dirty dogs can get cleaned up by a staff of volunteer groomers; proceeds benefit Rocket Dog's rescue work.

More information on Rocket Dog events is available at www.rocketdogrescue.com.

Sunday, September 22 is a big day for PAWS, the local nonprofit that provides animal care for people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. For the first time, PAWS will have a cable car

trolley at the event to encourage the disabled to participate. Disabled people and their pets will be driven through the race route in the trolley, which is being donated for the fundraiser.

The seventh annual Doggone Fun Run is a 5-kilometer run or walk for humans and their dogs through Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadow. The run features contests and prizes including hotel packages; music and entertainment including jazz, steel drums, and bluegrass; a pre-race warm-up by talk show host Joanie Greggains, and water and snacks for both people and canines. Participants without dogs can request that one be provided for them. All money raised goes toward PAWS services, which include dog walking, pet sitting, fostering, and transportation, and the organization's food bank. Registration forms are available at www.pawssf.org, or by calling (415) 241-1460. ▼

N-9 ban

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After initial tests more than 15 years ago showed that N-9 killed HIV in the test tube, manufacturers began adding it to lubricants and promoted it to gay men as added protection against HIV. Subsequent studies, however, have shown that N-9 has the opposite effect and that hundreds of sheets of protective epithelial cells were washed away in the anus as a result of its use.

Perhaps the most alarming of all the N-9 studies was conducted last year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It surveyed more than 500 gay men in San Francisco and found that 41 percent of those who used N-9 lubricants in the previous year did so without a condom because they believed N-9 offered protection against HIV.

Two years ago, the CDC unequivocally advised against the

use of N-9 lubricants for anal sex. The World Health Organization issued its own warning against N-9 for anal sex this summer.

Leno's press release detailed other N-9 health concerns: "In addition to the risk of HIV transmission, some studies have shown that N-9 may increase the incidence of vaginal and cervical ulcers and recurring yeast infections in women. Over-the-counter sexual lubricants are technically classified by the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] as cosmetics and do not fall under the same degree of safety testing as drugs."

"We can't afford to wait for the FDA to reclassify and study this issue," concluded Leno. "The dangers of N-9 have been proven by the CDC and WHO studies and, as public officials, our first responsibility is to protect the public health."

The policy director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Fred Dillon, praised the proposed legislation. SFAF stopped distributing

N-9 condoms and lubricants after the CDC first warned about it. Dillon said he hoped that manufacturers would soon follow Leno's lead and stop making N-9 lubricants. Dillon added that he was pleased that Leno's proposed legislation was directed only toward banning N-9 lubricants, not N-9 spermicidal gels or creams, which have been proven to be of benefit as a contraceptive.

Once drafted by the city attorney, Leno will introduce the ordinance at the Board of Supervisors and it will be sent to the Health and Human Services Committee for review.

Manufacturers who still make N-9 lubricants did not respond to the B.A.R.'s calls for comment by press time. Many manufacturers, including Oakland-based Mayer Laboratories, which produces Aqua Lube, Johnson & Johnson, the maker of KY Plus, and Trigg Laboratories, which produces lube under the Wet brand, have voluntarily stopped making N-9 lubricants. ▼

Peter Rust Matthews



Our angel Peter departed the physical world peacefully the morning of August 2, 2002, in his home with his mother and his adoring partner, Michael, at his side, after a long and difficult battle with

AIDS-related PML.

Peter was loved by many, people and had a smile and easygoing personality that charmed everyone he met. Although he was almost completely paralyzed for the last year of his life, he never became bitter or gave up. He was an absolute inspiration to those who remained close to him.

Peter was born November 13, 1957, in Midland, Michigan. He is survived by his partner, Michael A. Baily; his mother, Martha P. Matthews of Midland, Michigan; his father, R. David Matthews of Chicago; his brothers and

sisters, Chris Matthews of Fairbanks, Alaska; John Matthews of Washington, D.C.; Darwin Matthews of Ann Arbor, Michigan; his beloved nieces and nephews, Christy and Grace of Fairbanks; Taylor, Charlie, and Natalie of Ann Arbor; and Ivy, Phoebe, and Daphne of Ann Arbor; and many friends. Memorial services have been held in San Francisco and Midland, Michigan.

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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Tee time

by Jim Provenzano

The once elitist sport of golf will be given another egalitarian boost this fall when lesbian and gay athletes tee up for team and individual competition at Sydney's Moore Park course for Gay Games VI.

Among those golfers are two Bay Area participants, Claire Monfort and Danny Beaver.

This will be Monfort's fourth Gay Games in a variety of sports. Born in Jackson Heights, Queens, Monfort, 46, graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology and worked in Manhattan for years before moving to San Francisco in 1981, "to come out, far away from my close-knit Irish-Catholic family."

And although her family is now okay with it, her coming out led to an enthusiastic participation in the first Gay Games held in San Francisco.

Monfort worked at the legendary Amelia's bar for nine years, and played on the now-closed bar's softball team. Monfort instead competed at Gay Games I in tennis, a sport she also enjoyed in high school and college.

"San Francisco had such a large contingent, so for softball, tennis, and basketball they had to hold try-outs," she said.

She instead played tennis with a New York team. At Gay Games II, she played softball. "From there I helped organize the North American Gay Athlete Amateur Alliance." Monfort was recently elected into its Hall of Fame as a co-founder and was also the San Francisco women's division representative for 12 years.

Gay Games 1994 in New York saw her first competition in golf, which she had been playing since 1991. "Just for fun, going out, hitting a bucket of balls. But I started to play because I could do it on my own." Monfort played for the Cafe's women's team, which won the gold in 1994.

She also played golf at Pelham Bay Park, which she noted, "had a beautiful course," she said. "You just couldn't believe you were in NYC, the greens were beautiful, as was the clubhouse. New York hosted a very good tournament. That was very exciting. I was very glad I did play golf, because it really exposed me to what the Games represent, the joining of nations all over the world. Unlike softball, which is mostly U.S. teams, golf had a cross-cultural mix of nations."

Love, Sydney

Having missed Gay Games IV and V, Monfort is excited about visiting Sydney. "Australia has always been a country I wanted to visit, but I decided just to do golf, it's very taxing to do."

She said that Moore Park in downtown Sydney is considered worthy of an LPGA tour. "My understanding is that it's an 18-hole course. I don't know how they're going to host a two-day tournament. There must be two courses there."

In February, she went online to Team Victoria to research the course. After an online chat with another lesbian golfer, Monfort met her new friend in person when she visited San Francisco, and a romance has struck up. Her new date will be competing in

women's powerlifting.

To prepare for competition, Monfort will be teeing off up until her departure for Australia. "You have to do very well your first day out, if you want to be part of the finals," she said.

After work at the district attorney's office in Marin County, Monfort practices at Bluerock Range in Vallejo, or brings her dogs to a park and chips balls that her dogs happily retrieve.

This saves money on caddie fees, a topic Monfort admits is a drawback to golf. "It's so expensive, from membership to costing \$60 to \$80 a round." She also spent about \$1,000 on a set of irons, and took lessons to increase her skills. All this adds up to quite an investment.

Despite having found a supportive community among golfers, Monfort offered some insights as to why it's easier for lesbians to be out in the sport than gay men.

"Look at society as a whole," she said. "We live in a white, rich man's world. For a male to come out would be suicidal. They would get the type of harassment, and lose endorsements. For the women it does come down to gender. Society goes on a great assumption that most female athletes are gay."

"That's why you see more women in sports coming out. For women on the golf tour, their colleagues are not gonna give them a hard time. Women are a little more open. Men get into that locker room mentality."

She also points out the obvious programming bias in sports coverage.

"With the U.S. Tennis Open, they televise the women's finals at 8 a.m., and the men's at prime time. The moment they put us in the mainstream press, it implies that they accept us, and that's why



Claire Monfort and her dogs, who sometimes caddie as well.

I love doing Gay Games. If one person sees that we're normal folk, that's great. I can do it in a small way by being totally out as an athlete."

Tee for two

"I think it's incredible that there are no openly gay male golfers, whereas in women's golf it's kind of assumed," said Danny Beaver, the founder of Tee & Tea, a GLBT golf group.

"The ones you think are gay, oftentimes are not. Because it's a pro sport where women have been excelling, they get stigmatized by the men."

Beaver, 36, will be playing golf in Sydney, and hopes the Gay Games event will continue to break down notions about golf.

"It's such a gay sport! Look at the outfits!" he joked. "The bold colors and bright patterns. These are not outfit straight men usually wear."

"Also, the whole etiquette is about being polite, not about machismo. I wonder why more men aren't out. There are a lot of stereotypes that need to be overcome."

Born in Marin, Beaver grew up in Santa Rosa, and now lives in Guerneville with his partner of five years.

An enrollment counselor for the ADAP program of Sonoma County, his previous work with mentally ill clients, and now HIV clients, is quite rewarding.

Athletic in school, he played Little League baseball, and wrestled in junior high. He started golfing with a cousin, then took it up as a distraction to help him quit smoking cigarettes.

"It's the perfect sport for obsessive-compulsive types; hitting a little tiny ball in a little tiny hole. I like that you're only competing with yourself."

Beaver watches quite a bit of golf on TV, and admits to being a Tiger Woods fan. "Also Craig Stadler. He's what I call a golfing bear."

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Bisexuality Day on Monday

by Liz Highleyman

This Monday, September 23, the Bay Area Bisexual Network invites all bisexuals, friends, and allies to observe "Celebrate Bisexuality Day." The event is designed to raise awareness of bisexuality and promote bi pride. Events will be take place in San Francisco and several other cities including Los Angeles and Boston.

In San Francisco, BABB will sponsor an ice cream social at the LGBT Community Center.

The event will take place from 7:30-9 p.m. at the center, located at 1800 Market Street. Interested people should RSVP to (415) 865-5627 or info@babn.org. A \$3-5 donation is requested, with no one turned away.

Celebrate Bisexuality Day kicks off a season of bi events which will include the third annual Bisexual Men's conference in San Diego from October 18-20 and the seventh International Conference on Bisexuality in Sydney, Australia, from October 25-28, preceding Gay Games VI. ▼

Santa Cruz pot

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Phil Baer, one of Fitzmaurice's opponents in November's election, led a counter-protest against the gathering. Carrying a sign that read "Someone has to be the grown-up around here," Baer told the B.A.R. that "I challenge the ability of Santa Cruz officials to arbitrarily decide what is right and what laws to follow."

Baer's wife, Jane, joined her husband in his protest, and disagreed with Fitzmaurice's position that the action did not condone drug abuse.

"I'm the parent of teenagers. Santa Cruz leaders are teaching our children that violating the law is okay, and marijuana is illegal," she said. Citing anecdotal evidence that marijuana use leads to

increased heroin abuse and decreases the respectability of Santa Cruz and California, she called on the patients to stop using marijuana and try alternatives.

Tuesday's medical marijuana distribution was unusual because the conspicuous absence of uniformed police officers for a demonstration of its size, especially given the nature of the gathering and the possibility of intervention by DEA agents. The DEA would not say whether it had agents on site. There were no arrests.

WAMM monitors patrolled the grounds and controlled the energetic crowd, as well as screened those wishing to receive the medicinal herb. The patients who received the marijuana needed both an official photo-ID as well as a copy of a prescription from their doctor, and had to be approved by WAMM monitors. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

His golf bag goes wherever he travels. "I look forward to my vacations when I can golf," Beaver said. "If they allow caddies, my partner will be mine."

He hopes to develop contacts among the 250 individual and team competitors in Sydney.

Beaver commented that some gay people think it's funny to be a golfer. "There were no other golfers out there, at least not coordinating their efforts." Beaver started Tee & Tea to bring together other golfers. They meet on occasional Saturdays to play on different golf courses around the Bay Area.

If you would like to know more about Tee & Tea, contact Beaver at gogolf@earthlink.net.

Like Spike

The San Francisco Spikes soccer team's beer benefit and Sydney fundraiser will be hosted by the Transfer bar (Market and Church streets) on Saturday, September 21, from 3-8 p.m. Enjoy suds, or soda and food. \$10 requested, \$5 minimum donation. Meet the leggy dudes of the Spikes as they head to Sydney.

Islandish

The 21st annual Lesbigay Angel Island Sports Day is Saturday, September 28.

Join Team San Francisco and the San Francisco FrontRunners for the annual celebration of LGBT sports on Angel Island, the state park in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Bring sports equipment for running, bicycling, volleyball, softball, football, Frisbee, hiking, swimming, or any other activity of your choice.

Prefer a non-competitive sport? Join the New Games. Meet many local queer sports clubs, enjoy the elaborate potluck picnic, and spend time with old or new friends in this beautiful natural

setting. It's a great opportunity to connect with other athletes who are bound for Gay Games VI in Sydney this November.

Depart from Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf on the Blue & Gold Fleet at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10.50 round trip and it is advisable to purchase them in advance. Additional departure times are at 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. For more information, e-mail lamda23@yahoo.com.

You can purchase tickets using PayPal. Find the link and more info at www.teamsf.org/store.htm.

Guest list, sweetie

Dan Dyer and Ben Hu invite anyone participating with Team SF in Gay Games VI to join them at their house for cocktails and socializing on Friday, September 27. The house will be open between 7 p.m. and midnight for casual drop-ins and relaxing team reunions.

Please RSVP to dkdyer@yahoo.com, or call (415) 504-7533. Bring a \$5 contribution to the Team SF Athlete Assistance Fund, which provides Team SF athletes in need with travel assistance funds to attend Gay Games.

Let's dance

If you want to showcase your Sydney 2002 dance routine before an audience, now is your chance. Steve Rockwell has invited all Team SF dancers to join the party at City College. Rockwell's desire is to "support any dance competitors that are going to Sydney by giving them the chance to do some trial-run performances at our CCSF parties."

Lessons are at 7 p.m., dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. at the John Adams Auditorium, corner of Hayes and Masonic (3rd floor), every third Saturday of each month (September 21, October 19, and November 16).

Additionally, these dance parties are open to the public for lessons for a mere \$5. E-mail Steve.Rockwell@jud.ca.gov or call (415) 553-8680. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Commercial Recycling Coordinator (Class 5642 - \$62,270 - \$75,660): Develops, coordinates, implements, and monitors recycling programs for businesses in San Francisco, including but not limited to paper, plastic, metals, and organic materials; prepares and manages program budget; provides technical assistance to businesses and agencies; administers grants & contracts; and administers commercial recycling ordinances and other legislative mandates. This position is also responsible for managing professional services contracts for technical assistance.
2. Residential and Special Projects Recycling Coordinator (Class 5642 - \$62,270 - \$75,660): Develops, coordinates, implements and evaluates source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs for residents in San Francisco, including but not limited to, paper, plastic, glass, metals, and organic materials; administers and implements the City's \$1 million annual grant program; prepares and manages program budgets; provide technical assistance to apartments, residence and service providers; administers grants & contracts; and administers recycling ordinances and other legislative mandates. The position is also responsible for managing professional services contracts for technical assistance.
3. The Residential Toxics Reduction Coordinator (Class 5642 - \$62,270 - \$75,660): Responsible for the coordination and implementation of San Francisco's residential toxics reduction special programs aimed at proper disposal of hazardous materials and reducing the use of toxic toxic substances as products. This includes oversight of contractors, service of the City Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The incumbent will investigate source reduction technologies and develop materials to promote their use as well as review hazardous waste data to prepare reports for state and federal agencies.

For information on how to apply to these three positions: environment.org

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

Artists, don't miss this opportunity to submit a proposal to the Individual Artists Commission (IAC). Through IAC, the San Francisco Arts Commission makes grants of up to \$10,000 available for project support to individual artists living and working in San Francisco who are interested in stimulating the production and dissemination of high-quality works of art throughout the city's neighborhoods.

What's Available: Grants of up to \$10,000 for specific art projects in literary arts, media arts and visual arts or of an interdisciplinary character, based on a combination of these art forms.

For an application and more information, visit our site: <http://sfac.sfu.edu>

Application deadline: Friday, September 27th.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City and County of San Francisco has an excellent opportunity in the Office of the Clerk of Board of Supervisors for a seasoned Senior Legislative Analyst with strong leadership, analytical, written and oral communication skills. The position plans, organizes, leads and/or directs staff in complex, sensitive, detailed analytical work in the area of legislative policy analysis considered by the Board of Supervisors. Minimum requirements include possession of a Masters Degree in Public Policy, Public Administration, Economics, City Planning or related field and, a minimum of 5 years of experience in a public or private agency within a city, or a federal government structure. For more detailed information and application form, visit www.sfgov.org. Submit completed application form to Eng Chan #1371, Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-5689 or call (415) 554-7707. Filing Deadline is 08/20/2002, EOE.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspaper for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE 0260276-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moon in Water, 733 Fillmore Street #3, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Gauntlet. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 20, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/20/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259470

The following person(s) are doing business as: Will To Vend, 1550 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Willie Morris Mikells. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 23, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/23/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260326-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: BP Design, 590 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin B. Pada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/22/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259481

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Healing Leaf, 526 6th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elisa M. Baker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 23, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/23/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260155-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Metro City Bar, 3600 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard H. Pearson, pres. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/15/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260191-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Transgender Health Law Project, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel Levine, treasurer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 16, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/16/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260199-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moon in Water, 733 Fillmore Street #3, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Gauntlet. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 20, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/20/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260550-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NB Dick SF, Castro Cards SF, 4356-17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Robert Makowka and Greg T. Trezise. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260557-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Time Clothing, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Aaron Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 30, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260583-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Alcatraz Records, 1001 Mariposa Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed William C. Walker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 12, 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260559-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Vac' N Save, 303 Second Street North Tower 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dolores Silva, VP Finance & Administration. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260088-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Queen Of Tarls, 350 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Marisa Lia Churchill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/14/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260539-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tangerine Cafe, 3499 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual limited liability company signed Steven B. Berlin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/29/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259827

The following person(s) are doing business as: Law Offices of Steven B. Berlin, 3790 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steven B. Berlin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/29/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260219-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

Montgomery Barber Shop, 719 Monterey Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94127.

This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph J. Pasternak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/19/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259951

The following person(s) are doing business as:

John Rocker Films, Filmmaker Studios, Casting Couch Productions, 200 12th Street, San Francisco, CA 94104.

This business is conducted by an individual signed John Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 8, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/08/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260311-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

Gay Relate, 160 Corwin Street #3, San Francisco, CA 94114.

This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jonathan Plotzker, Gregory P. Howe, Bill McLawhorn, David Mulin, Hugh Keelan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/21/2002.

AUG. 29, SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260540-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

Diane Marie Carrier For change of Name. The application of Diane Marie Carrier for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Marie Carrier has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dean Walton Carrier. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of October at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260540-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

Hermetic Circle Reality, 1215 Greenwich #4A, San Francisco, CA 94109.

This business is conducted by an individual signed Elliot S. Eisenberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/29/2002.

SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260567-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

One Time Clothing, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110.

This business is conducted by an individual signed Aaron Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 30, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260583-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:

Alcatraz Records, 1001 Mariposa Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94107.

This business is conducted by an individual signed William C. Walker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/30/2002.

SEPT. 12, 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

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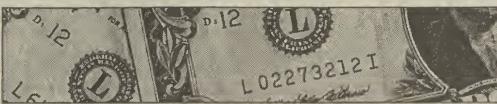


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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0260733-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Echos Hair Design, 211 Sutter Street
7th Fl. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This
business is conducted by an husband and
wife signed Eduardo A. Lazo and Kukhi
Lazo. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
September 9, 2002. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 09/09/2002.
SEPT. 12, 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260190-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Young Gay America, 4615 18th Street,
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Benjamin
William Nycum. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on August 16, 2002. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 09/09/2002.
SEPT. 12, 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260693-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Bizzy Bee Housekeeping, 550 Battery
Street, 2019, San Francisco, Ca. 94111.
This business is conducted by an individual
signed Julie A. Hobbs. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on N/A. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 09/06/2002.
SEPT. 12, 19, 26, OCT. 3, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260841-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: National Car Rental Alamo Rent A Car.
1600 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca.
94103. This business is conducted by a
corporation signed Robert Heymann,
president. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
November 3, 1999. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 09/12/2002.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260532-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Blue Room Leather, 1259 Folsom
Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Darren Anthony Corey. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on August 29,
2002. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
07/29/2002.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 260054

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Prime Time Realty, 461 2nd Street
#C322, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Peter Keigman. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on N/A. The statement was filed with
the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 08/13/2002.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260711-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Goldsmith Gardens, 50 Laguna Street,
#505, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed John Joseph Goldsmith. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on September 06,
2002. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
09/06/2002.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260860-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: SF Pied-A-Terre, 11 Sussex Street, San
Francisco, Ca. 94131-3011. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Judith
E. Stevenson. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
September 12, 2002. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2002.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is: Liquid Assets Incorporated.
The applicants listed above are applying to the
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San
Francisco, Ca. 94107. To sell alcoholic
beverages at: 335 Powell Street, San
Francisco, Ca. 94102. Type of license Applied
for:
20- OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC02- 540454

In the Matter of the Application of James
Allen Malone. For change of Name. The
application of James Allen Malone for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
James Allen Malone has filed an
application proposing that his/her name be
changed to -The name is confidential and is
on record with the secretary of state. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on
the 18th day of November at 9:00am., of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC02- 540441

In the Matter of the Application of
Mohamed-Ali Jaoua. For change of Name.
The application of Mohamed-Ali Jaoua for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Mohamed-Ali Jaoua has filed an
application proposing that his/her name be
changed to Alexander Jawa. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on
the 7th day of November at 9:00am., of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
SEPT. 19, 26, OCT. 3, 10, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 02-540420

In the Matter of the Application of Elita
Kathleen Young. For change of Name. The
application of Elita Kathleen Young for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Elita Kathleen Young has filed an
application proposing that his/her name be
changed to Aida S. Robson. Now therefore,
it is hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on the
10th day of October at 9:00am., of said day
to show cause why the application for
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SEPT. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2002

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Filmmaker Su Friedrich

James Hamilton

Friedrich lays odds

World premiere at
MadCat Film Fest

by Jenni Olson

Who says we don't have glamour and cinematic excitement here in San Francisco? Fuck Hollywood, we've got the MadCat Women's International Film Festival, running now through September 29 at cool, funky film venue near you (including Artists Télévision Access, the back patio of El Rio, SF Art Institute and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley).

If you only get to see one of the 50-plus films and videos on view at this year's MadCat Festival, be sure you make it to the September 23 world premiere of Su Friedrich's *The Odds of Recovery*. In this intimate experimental feature, Friedrich documents her years-long struggle with various health problems and her personal exploration of both Western and Eastern medicine. Friedrich will be in attendance at the screening (at the San Francisco Art Institute) and also at an encore screening on September 26 at the Pacific Film Archive.

One of the most esteemed experimental filmmakers working today, Friedrich, who happens to be a lesbian, has for the most part avoided making films "about" being a lesbian. And yet she always manages to have a uniquely queer perspective on her ostensibly "straight" topics. Her work continues to defy traditional genres, falling to rest in a hybrid genre of "personal films."

In a phone interview from her home in Brooklyn, New York, the 47-year-old Friedrich describes her vision for the film as a catalyst for people's own perspectives and emotions.

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Miller's crossing

'Body Blows' now,
expatriation to follow?

by Richard Dodds

If only the climate were better in England. Tim Miller said, the prospect of exile in the UK wouldn't seem quite so uninviting.

"I'm such a beach boy," said the solo performer and resident of Venice, Calif. "Hopefully, I'll get my Baker Beach day when I'm in San Francisco. I'll light a candle."

Miller will be praying for a sunny day or two during his run in *Body Blows* at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. And then he'll be praying that a last-minute solution can be found before his partner's visa expires in January, when the two plan to move to England in order to stay together.

Miller and partner Alistair McCartney's struggles to continue to live together under US immigration policy, which makes no acknowledgment of same-sex unions, were the subject of *Glory Box*. A segment from that piece, seen at NCTC in 1999, as well as three of his other solo plays, make up most of *Body Blows*.

"The last quarter of the show is a brand-new piece that is one of the best things I've ever done," Miller said. "It's an extremely strong piece that brings in Sept. 11, and is partly an update of this ongoing immigration battle. The strength of the last piece somehow makes these other stories coalesce into something that feels quite new."

The immigration battle is hardly Miller's first brawl with the US government. Along with Holly Hughes, Karen Finley, and John Fleck, Miller was one of the famous "NEA Four" who sued the government when

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OPERA

Ariadne par excellence

San Francisco Opera rescues Strauss

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm convinced that last week's weird weather was caused by the copious amounts of hot air emitted after the opening weekend of the San Francisco Opera's 80th season. The reeling pundits didn't just praise Pamela Rosenberg for her first "fully planned" season, they dumped the butter boat down her trousers. There couldn't have been more gas in the air if Princess Diana had returned from the dead and was dispensing holy water at the corner of Grove and Van Ness.

The distressing thing about these effusions to thoughtful opera fans is that Rosenberg has done a remarkable job of damage control all along; she's sometimes being praised for the wrong things. Take the singers who starred in the first two productions — *Turandot* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*. I don't have a Deep Throat source at the opera, but piecing things together from singers, agents and others, it seems that Lotfi Mansouri had signed Jane Eaglen, Deborah Voigt and Thomas Moser for Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten*.

Rosenberg apparently took one look at that and said the equivalent of, "Over my dead body." So she reassigned Eaglen to *Turandot* (though in rescuing Strauss, she showed contempt for Puccini), and Voigt and Moser to *Ariadne*. Result, a damn fine *Ari-*

adne, and a *Turandot* loud enough to fool anybody who agreed with the insulting program note that it wasn't a very good piece in any event. (Then why do it? The same guy trashed *Ariadne*, too. That may be the operatic equivalent of "fair play," but I'll bet the farm he doesn't dump on Rosenberg's favorite, *Saint Francis of Assisi*.)

The rescue job was first-rate. Yet Rosenberg's one original idea, casting a bright young German mezzo, Claudia Mahnke, as the Composer in *Ariadne's* prologue, was obviously a mistake, though I don't imagine anyone will admit it, even under torture. The mezzo is attractive, charming, serious, intense and has a lovely voice for Cherubino or Dorabella in an opera house half the size of the War Memorial. However, she does not have the chops to sing the Composer, who should be a soprano in any case. Mahnke performed admirably in the circumstances, but the house is too big, conductor Jun Markl didn't have a clue about balances — "37 instruments and 3,200 seats? Let 'er rip!" — and the child pushed her voice so uncomfortably that I got a sore throat listening to her.

The production, elderly and borrowed from Lyric Opera, was nothing to float half-a-dozen Montgolfier balloons. After scaring me that he was going to get too vulgar, director John Cox managed in the end successfully to blend the comic and serious. The cardboard boat that carried

Ariadne (Voigt) and Bacchus (Moser) into the sky was pretty nifty, as were the descending chandeliers, although obviously nobody on the creative team studied astronomy. The final constellation didn't look anything like *Ariadne's* wreath.

Sumptuous top

I have said all along that Rosenberg's tenure will be judged not by repertory or productions but by the quality of voices she hires and how she casts them. For that reason the jury is still out, since both casts were essentially hired by her predecessor. Still, you can't do better than Voigt or Moser in these roles today. Voigt sings more with sumptuous poise than eager eroticism; in other words, she's not Leonie Rysanek — but what a gorgeous sound, rich, big, flexible, feminine and crowned with a majestic top. Voigt also has learned to move gracefully on stage, and isn't afraid to send up her diva image in the Prologue. Finally, after enduring Eaglen's *Turandot* (at least I wasn't the one who called her demeanor "nasty" in print), note that Voigt is also a large woman, but one who makes the most of her imperious, Marie Therese figure. Heavens, Gooch, you have a waist!

Moser is the Thinking Person's Sex Symbol. He's tall, he has a good figure and splendid legs, and a heavy, dramatic tenor that shows no strain in Strauss' unkind high flights. He sang all those B-

Deborah Voigt isn't afraid to send up her diva image in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Larry Markle

flats, even the ones the composer didn't ask for, and he never sounded stressed or strained. I wish as much could be said for the Music Master, the Dance Master and Arlecchino, none of whom appeared ready for prime time at the international level.

The most interesting vocal aspect of *Ariadne* is one that I can give you no inside gossip about — and that is, who hired Laura Claycomb to sing Zerbina? A former Adler Fellow, her Fiakermilli a couple of years ago didn't recommend her for more strenuous assignments, but she was simply the best Zerbina I've ever heard live. And I started in Munich's tiny Cuivilles' theatre with Erika Koth, one of postwar Germany's most celebrated coloratura sopranos. I've also heard Reri Grist and Kathy Battle, the singing mosquito, essay the role.

They didn't have half Claycomb's genuine charm, and Koth, who sat on the seashell prompt box, waving her fishnet stocking

in our faces in that tiny theater, didn't have Claycomb's vocal assurance. Thin and wiry, this Zerbina reminded you she was a dancer first, yet the showstopping aria "Grossmächtige Prinzessin" was tossed off with such confidence that Claycomb was able to do other things while she was singing it — namely, show off a Zerbina personality that was a blend of one part saucy tart and one part vulnerable innocent. Maybe it is her own personality. Maybe she's a great actress. She was so convincing that at that critical moment when Zerbina hits the climactic high D and the audience usually erupts prematurely, Claycomb didn't even have to ask for silence. Nobody made a sound, including breathing. They wanted, just as I did, to hear what came next. ▼

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Teenage petting zoo

Younger Culkin as 'Igby Goes Down' well

by David Lamble

When we first meet Igby (Kieran Culkin) and brother Oliver (Ryan Phillippe), they're about to kill their mother, Mimi (Susan Sarandon), at her request, in a scene that revives the absurdist tone of Carl Reiner's Jewish mama-bashing cult classic, *Where's Poppa?* We learn that Dad (Bill Pullman) is profoundly schizophrenic and a permanent resident of the "Maryland home for the befuddled." Igby's godfather, D.H. (Jeff Goldblum), is a coldly manipulative philanderer who is not above using violence to get his way when more commonplace cruelties don't suffice. Igby Goes Down opens Fri.

Sarandon gives us a Mommie Dearest-like portrait of a self-absorbed sensationalist who spews bile over everything she can't dominate. Of the cherublike Igby, who has been kicked out of practically every private school in the New York metropolitan region, Mimi sneers, "His creation was an act of animosity, why shouldn't his life be?"

When asked why he calls his mom Mimi, Igby retorts, "Medea was already taken." When Oliver ambushes Igby as he's being ravished by one Sookie Tupperstein, the young princess tucks from the pudding of a boy to purr, "You're the fascist brother." This inspires an Igby dig: "He prefers Young Re-



Amanda Peet (Rachel) and Kieran Culkin (Igby): boho island of lost toys.

publican."

Named after a stuffed bear, Igby is treated for much of the film like an exotic creature who is just starting to outgrow his cute phase, a lone inhabitant of a high-society petting zoo. A dotty older woman spies Igby at a party thrown by D.H. "I could just eat you with a spoon," Igby snaps, "Don't." Sookie, as she is about to betray Igby to date his brother, adds insult to injury. "You think that sex will make you feel better. You're better off masturbating."

For all its ferocity, *Igby Goes Down* is very much a laugh-out-loud comedy. It also serves as an autopsy of New York society, a caustic if accurate take on the sharks who devour the poor to get to the top, and then feast on each

other in order to stay there. Igby's plot, which could be subtitled *Bigger Picture Darwinism*, details the care and feeding of baby sharks. Igby pilfers his mother's plastic and bribes her chauffeur so that he can flee his hamster cage and hide out at a large Lower Manhattan loft maintained by D.H. as a weekend pied-à-terre. There he meets its denizens, D.H.'s drug-addled trophy girlfriend (Amanda Peet) and her gay artist buddy Russell (Jared Harris) — a dancer who doesn't dance, living with a painter who doesn't paint.

It's in this Boho version of *The Island of Lost Toys* that Igby catches D.H. with his pants down. D.H. drops his frozen-fish mask of aristocratic propriety and beats Igby

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Su Friedrich

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"While my particular story shapes the film," says Friedrich, "it's less important than the experience of the viewer, who should be free to remember his or her own stories, disapprove of, argue with, or identify with my experience."

"The film evolved over a three-year period, and it portrays very directly the complicated web of emotions that attend any medical problem — from fear and denial to diligence and faith," says Friedrich.

Bringing her Hi-8 videocamera along to her doctor's appointments, Friedrich documented her journey through the Western healthcare system. Correspondingly, she utilized 16mm film to explore Eastern medicine, martial arts and gardening.

The film is much more than an exploration of medical issues, though, as Friedrich explains, "It's also about facing middle age and menopause, and about the fear of death."

Friedrich is a self-taught filmmaker who typically writes, produces, directs, shoots, and edits all of her films — and *The Odds of Recovery* is no exception (though she did have some assistance from cinematographer Joel Schlemowitz).

Bay Area queer audiences are most familiar with Friedrich's work from the *Gay & Lesbian*

Film Festival. Frameline has shown all of her films over the years, including such highlights as her innovative and award-winning lesbian nun film, *Damned If You Don't* (1987), and Friedrich's poignant exploration of lesbian childhood, *Hide and Seek* (1996).

Over the years, Friedrich has blazed a path for a different kind of filmmaking — and a different kind of filmgoing experience. Lyrical, poetic, passionate and innovative, Friedrich's films are among the most rewarding cinematic delicacies you'll ever find. *The Odds of Recovery* continues on this path as Friedrich uses her own intimate personal experience as a lens for us to examine our lives, and experience our own vulnerability.

The Odds of Recovery screens at the San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St., on Sept. 23 at 8 p.m.; and at the Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Su Friedrich will be in attendance at both screenings.

Tickets are \$7 and available at the door. MadCat Women's International Film Festival screenings are taking place throughout the month of September at four Bay Area venues: Artists Television Access, San Francisco Art Institute, El Rio and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. For more information, call the MadCat Hotline at (415) 436-9523, or visit www.somaglow.com/madcat. ▼

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Ahoy, Alloy Orchestra!

Performs to silent classics at the Castro

by Gary Morris

The word "alloy" suggests a diminution, a lessening of value by the addition of something weak to something strong — a particularly inapt word for the singularly robust Alloy Orchestra. This three-man group, which began in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1991, utilizes homemade percussion, found objects, synthesizers, and their trademark "rack of junk" in original soundtracks to silent films, performed live. Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, Victor Sjöström's *The Wind*, and more than a dozen other silent classics so far have benefited from the Alloy treatment. Now they've turned their attentions to the Douglas Fairbanks swashbuckler *The Black Pirate* (1926), Murnau's vampire epic *Nosferatu* (1922), and a captivating short by Jane Gillooly, *Dragonflies, the Baby Cries* (2000). The Boyz of Alloy have good connections with the cinematheques and archives, so the prints they score are the best around. They perform tonight, Sept. 19, at the Castro Theatre.

The Black Pirate is a rarity, the first film shot entirely in two-strip Technicolor. Michel (Fairbanks) is a Spanish duke whose ship is captured and destroyed by pirates. When his father dies in the process (in a wonderfully tender scene), he wreaks havoc on the pi-

rates, and saves "the Princess" played by Billie Dove. It's a typical Fairbanks vehicle, a rousing adventure played tongue-in-cheek and calculated to show off the star's athletic prowess, evident despite his age, 43, at the time of production. Fairbanks predates Jackie Chan in his insistence on performing dangerous stunts himself, seen here as he fearlessly bounds up and down the ship's rigging. Dove is mostly decorative under the uninspired direction of Albert Parker; not an ungifted actress, here she mainly rolls her eyes in sorrow, grimaces at her pirate captors, and gazes longingly at Fairbanks, a pretty sight himself in a ripped, muscle-exposing blouse and thigh-hugging culottes. Equally fetching for certain segments of the audience will be the sight of all that pirate flesh, amply displayed in torn pantaloons and plunging necklines as the boys pursue their mischievous agenda of rape 'n' pillage.

Filmed off Santa Catalina Island, *The Black Pirate* was shot in muted color tones, not only because of the limitations of two-strip Technicolor, but to satisfy Fairbanks' wish to make it look like an N.C. Wyeth painting. In that regard the film succeeds nicely. Even critics who thought it lame cheered its look, with *The Film Daily* noting that "some of the shots are like the paintings of old masters in the beauty and splendor of their composition."

(Curiously, they didn't expound on Fairbanks' middle-aged beauty and splendor.) The Alloy's score nicely hyperdramatizes the film, perfectly complementing the mock heroics onscreen and invoking more subtle emotions when they're called for.

Bad manners

A much better film, and one perhaps more deserving of the efforts of Los Alloys, is Murnau's *Nosferatu*. The story is familiar enough from the endless remakes that followed, the most notable being the 1931 *Dracula*. Thomas Hutter (Gustav von Wangenheim) is hired to facilitate a real estate deal for Count Orlock (Max Schreck). But Orlock's no ordinary count. One of the creepier-looking presences in cinema history, he's a bald-as-an-egg vampire, with long, talon-like hands, socketlike eyes, and a towering height that makes him more threatening than more normalized monsters. The Count, of course, isn't satisfied with getting his dream home, but must augment his fun by terrorizing the countryside. He shows extremely bad manners by killing everyone on a ship on which he's a guest, and lusts, with equal fervor it seems, after Hutter and his wife.

One of the major attractions of *Nosferatu*, besides its sheer lyrical beauty and pervasive air of horror, is the strong homo subtext. Yes, Orlock is the classic bisexual



Douglas Fairbanks swashbuckles in fetching culottes in *The Black Pirate*.

monster, determined to have his way with not only Mrs. Hutter but also her hubby. Murnau, a notable queer himself, constantly threatens to bring this subtext to the fore, dwelling poetically on Hutter's "heavy dreams" and ongoing hysterics that barely mask his terror at the possibility of a homosexual seduction. ("Must not let him penetrate, must not let him penetrate," you can practically hear him chant.) Orlock, aka Mr. Grabby Claws, endlessly reinforces this motif with his frighteningly long arms, seen in flesh and shadow, extended to grab poor Hutter, whose heterosexuality seems increasingly tenuous.

The score underlines these evil hijinx with an initial romantic/sensual feel in the early (pre-monster) scenes between the lovesick Hutters. When the vampire appears, more ghostly motifs prevail, otherworldly harp-like sounds and grim industrial noises that keep the menace of the monster in the viewer's mind even when he's not onscreen. The Alloys make good on the film's subtitle, *A Symphony of Horror*. They even put a theremin to use, punctuating the action with the unearthly wail of that most inhuman of instruments.

On a more sanguine note, the short *Dragonflies, the Baby Cries* is a miniature masterpiece of childhood whimsy, in which a group of kids (including a bewildered-looking infant) escape the fetters of civilization (i.e., parents) for a mysterious trip to the woods. There they play and chant and engage in inexplicable rituals. The Alloys score these enchanting activities with a gorgeous wall of sound, from delicate xylophone tones to densely textured ragas reminiscent of gamelan music. If the score for *Nosferatu* transports, the music for *Dragonflies* transcends. ▼

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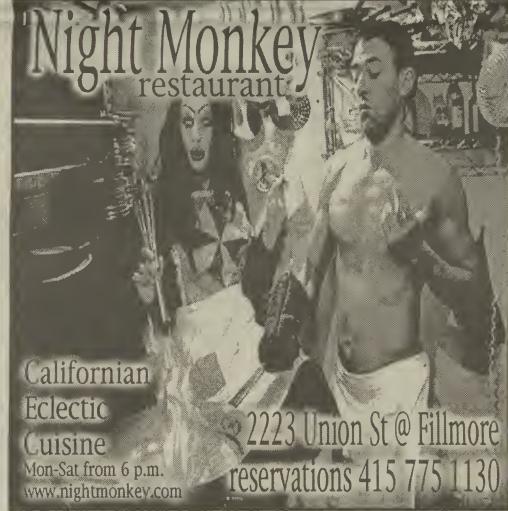
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Impossible dreamers

Berkeley Rep's 'House of Blue Leaves'

by Richard Dodds

Which is the less propitious date to open a show, Sept. 11 or Friday the 13th? Last week, to open its new season, Berkeley Rep found itself forced to exchange the anniversary of a national horror for the planet's most famous day for bad luck. But whatever unlucky fortune that precipitated the change turned out not to detract from the overall experience. In some ways, it even enhanced it.

The last-minute delay was required when Marisa Redant, playing one of the major roles in *The House of Blue Leaves*, departed the production two days before the scheduled Sept. 11 opening because of an unspecified illness. Opening night was delayed for two days to give Jeri Lynn Cohen, who had been playing a secondary role, at least a couple of days in the role of highly pivotal Bunny Flings before facing the critics.

By the time you read this, Cohen will surely have abandoned the script she carried and occasionally consulted, and this brave performance will soon emerge as an excellent one. But even with script in hand, Cohen effectively meshed with the strong ensemble. The audience, informed of the switch in a pre-show announcement, became charged by the virtuosity that Cohen was already bringing to the part.



Jaron Monroe (Artie), Rebecca Wisocky, far right (Bananas), in Berkeley.

Kevin Berne

John Guare's play, set with great specificity in the New York of 1965 on the day when Pope Paul VI came to town, finds further proof of its lasting quality with this production. Written in 1968 and first presented off-Broadway in 1971, Guare's comic tragedy found a second, larger wave of popularity in a 1986 Lincoln Center revival with Stockard Channing, Swoosie Kurtz, and John Mahoney. Guare's comic conventions no longer seemed so alien, and the madness of the world had caught up with the playwright's vision.

Real-life madness has sur-

passed anything Guare could have imagined in 1968, but the play digs deeper than its specifics. It has an ostensibly zany plot about a zookeeper (Jaron Monroe) who moonlights as a failed songwriter, his insane sprite of a wife (Rebecca Wisocky), his gung-ho mistress (Cohen), and his wannabe-Huck Finn psychopathic son (Adam Ludwig).

Not far beneath the jokes and slapstick situations, there is a provocative modern-day tragedy about the daily-bread power of illusion. Director Barbara Damashék's production is brash,

next page ►

"PRETTY DAMN TERRIFIC!"

Lisa Schwarzbaum / ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



"A CORROSIIVELY SARCASTIC COMEDY."
The remarkably assured directorial and screenwriting debut of Burr Steers. It packs an emotional wallop similar to that of another cultural golden oldie as beloved in its ways as 'The Catcher in the Rye': 'The Graduate.' Not a false note is sounded.

Stephen Holden / THE NEW YORK TIMES

"DARKLY HILARIOUS!"

Like Holden Caulfield in J.D. Salinger's 'The Catcher in the Rye,' Igby is adolescent rebellion incarnate. The thing with this movie: It keeps springing surprises.

Peter Travers / ROLLING STONE

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Miller's crossing

◀ Arts cover

their approved grants were rescinded in 1990. In 1998, the Supreme Court decided that it was okay for the government to refuse to fund "indecent art."

During the years when he was caught up in this high-profile fracas, Miller created and toured in *My Queer Body*, which also had a run at NCTC. That show also contributes to *Body Blows*, both the show and a recently published anthology of six of Miller's performances.

"I'm not sure I would have done [a compendium show] if I didn't have this new book out," he said. "I might have hurried to get my new show done. It's called *Us*, with the obvious double meaning of me and Alistair, and this country."

Miller and McCartney have been together for eight years, and it rankles Miller no end that the government sees less worth in that than in what a pair of drunken heterosexuals can accomplish in one day in Las Vegas.

"We'll be the last Western country in which lesbian and gay people will be fully seen as citizens," he said. "I have no doubt it will change, but is it 20 years or 60 years? I would like more gay people to be a little less patient with it. Fair-minded straight people should be pissed off as hell as well."

Miller and McCartney's relationship has become something of a standard-bearer for the rights of same-sex couples. But relationships are not made of steel and concrete, and what had been iconic can become a drag on the cause should a high-profile breakup occur. Have they considered the

danger of becoming another Ellen and Anne?

"It's a really good question, and I'm amazed no one asks it," he said. "The over-expression of Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche's relationship so early and so untested was probably not helpful. Alistair and I didn't make a peep about our relationship for almost five years, for a variety of reasons, but one of which is that you don't want to start being incredibly visible in this way unless you're really ready to pony up."

As a highly personal performer, Miller is used to having his life played out in public. "But I think for gay people generally, we're used to our lives being messed with," he said. "I was at the airport recently, and a gay African American man was in front of me, and a security guard cast an anti-gay slur at him. It was loud and obnoxious, and he and I immediately went to the supervisor and started filing a grievance."

"That's a minimal thing, but if we are going to act like we are actually citizens of this country, it means we are constantly going to be on a public playing field, because we're being fucked with publicly every day of our lives. Whether you choose to acknowledge it is another thing."

Body Blows will run through Sept. 29. Call 861-8972 for ticket info.

Time for Tennessee

From the beginning of his career right up to the end of his life, Williams was a prolific writer of one-act plays. The eight Williams one-acts that *Eastenders* Repertory Company is presenting as part of its *Eight X Tenn* festival exemplify that range.

Eastenders has divided the

growing out of waifdom that looks like it was sustained on a diet of heroin and truffles. Maintaining an almost zenlike cool in a scene where a drugged-out girl goes from nodding off in a toilet to collapsing in a shower stall, he conveys in a moment what took two hours in *Basketball Diaries*.

Steers, in his dialogue- and character-driven first feature, leaves a much clearer impression of himself as a writer who seems close to his subject than as a director. Only a few Richard Lester-like shots of an emancipated Igby jump-cutting across a pre-9/11 New York call attention to themselves. Here is a man who knew he had a great script and a dream cast, and wisely left it at that.

Igby revives the sacred tradition of cynical boy/men whose true godfather is Salinger, who refuse to be branded by an X or a Y, and who still hope that love will brush against their lips — lips that don't hesitate to proclaim, "I'm drowning in assholes." ▼

course of *House of Blue Leaves*, and some are born. Guare seems to be saying that without these dreams — or perhaps, more darkly, delusions — the human experience collapses like a paper lantern. It's a message heard before, but Guare expresses it with an elegant poignancy infusing what can only be called a madcap tragedy. ▼

The House of Blue Leaves will run at Berkeley Rep through Oct. 20. Tickets are \$42-\$54. Call (510) 647-2949.

Igby Goes Down

◀ page 28

to a pulp. Seeking solace from Oliver, Igby is told off to his now-battered face: "I think if Ghandi had been hanging out with you, he'd have kicked the shit out of you, too."

Trufflin' guy

In a film that may garner Supporting Oscar for Sarandon and Goldblum, the real revelation is Kieran Culkin. Culkin (ably assisted by brother Rory in the haunting flashback to Dad's breakdown) has a field day deadpanning writer/director Burr Steers' landmine-like one-liners, and gives a properly anguished reading of his plea to Sookie through a closed door not to make babies with Oliver. "Mongrel children have a hard time fitting in. These people are rigid and cold, cold to the fucking bone." Culkin lends Igby a body just

Blue Leaves

◀ page 30

as it should be, and finds harmony in the seemingly disparate tones. In addition to those identified above, the cast benefits from the work of Bill Geisslinger and Susannah Schulman as a famous Hollywood director and his glamorous fiancée, Wilma Bonet as the head nun in a trio of invading sisters, and Mollie Stickney as the little nun who trades habit for sequins.

Many dreams die during the



Moony's Kid, part of Eight X Tenn

eight plays into three series that will be performed in rotating repertory from Sept. 24 through Oct. 20 at the Eureka Theatre.

Series A (1935-50): *Moony's Kid* Don't Cry, Hello from Bertha, The Lady of Larkspur Lotion, and A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot. Series B (1960s): I Can't Imagine Tomorrow and The Gnadies Fraulein. Series C (1969-81): In the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel and The Traveling Companion.

The Traveling Companion, first published in the gay magazine *Christopher Street*, was written in the early '80s but not produced until 1996. Set in a New York hotel room, the play is a dialogue between an aging gentleman and his young-hustler companion.

For more information, call (510) 434-0734.

Outgoing director?

In his review of *Hairstory* at Theatre Rhinoceros, *Chronicle* critic Rob Hurwitt described Doug Holsclaw as the theater's "outgoing" artistic director. That sounded like news, because although John Fisher had been announced as co-artistic director, no mention has been made of Holsclaw's departure.

"No, I'm not the outgoing artistic director," Holsclaw said when we called for clarification. "John Fisher is coming on board as the co-artistic director. And next year I'm going to be taking a

sabbatical to work on a book, so that's the way things stand now."

Will he return after that? "I'm not prepared to say right now," Holsclaw said.

The book Holsclaw hopes to write will be a look at the gay-theater movement based on his personal experiences. "I teach a queer theater course at UC Santa Cruz, and the book would be like a companion piece to my course," he said. "I'm looking for funding so I can take some time off and work on it."

Short scenes

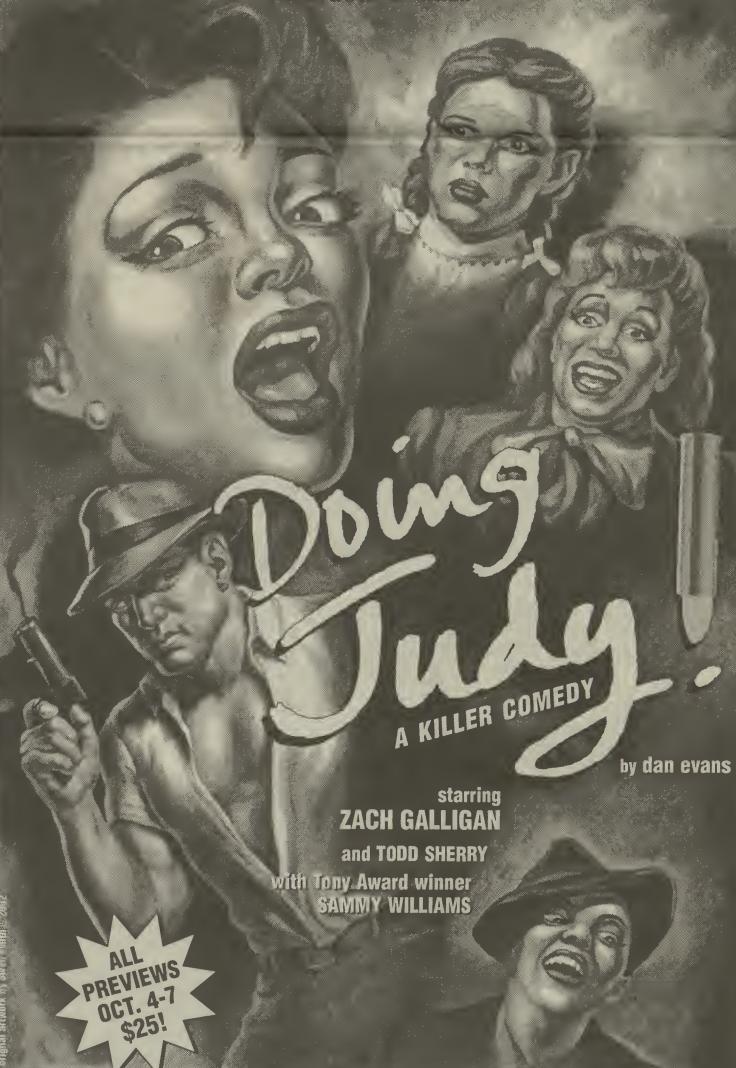
• There will be a one-week extension for *Let's Talk About Me*, the three-part comedy about Liberace, Doris Fish, and Jennifer Blowdryer. The run in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros is now set to continue through Sept. 29. Call 861-5079.

• Kate Clinton, the pioneering lesbian standup comic, is coming to town to help Theatre Rhinoceros celebrate its 25th season. Clinton will perform *You Look Like You Need a Laugh* at the Victoria Theatre on Sept. 27 and 28. All tickets are \$25. Reservations: 861-5079. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

"SCREAMINGLY HILARIOUS!"

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"Bamboo," by former company dancer Michael Lowe, was performed to original music by Melody of China.

East side story

Oakland Ballet opens with diverse program

by Michael Wade Simpson

At the Oakland Ballet opening last Friday night, Mayor Jerry Brown took a bow from the audience, the Board President and Artistic Director made speeches welcoming the "700 new subscribers," and the entire audience was treated to champagne and chocolate. It was clear how different things are on the East side of the Bay. One does not take a cultural institution for granted in Oakland, where the glorious art-deco Paramount Theatre is surrounded by leasable office space, and on-street parking is always available at night. On the marquee was a come-on you would never need in San Francisco: "All Live Music."

Artistic Director Karen Brown,

formerly of Dance Theatre of Harlem, is in her second season with the East Bay company, and her efforts to build something bigger and better are apparent. The mood in the house equaled the boosterism of the pre-curtain speeches, and the local schoolkids who helped fill the seats were seen imitating some of the ballet steps they'd just seen in the lobby at intermission. You can't help but root for this home team to come through.

Diversity is another one of the company's selling points, beyond "all live music" and the programming delivers. For its three-night run last weekend, Program A offered "A Night in Tunisia," a jazzy leotard ballet by Charles Anderson (former New York City Ballet dancer with local ties), featuring the Turtle Island String Quartet; "Jinx," a reconstruction of a 1942 circus psychodrama by Lew Christensen, with a Benjamin Britten score and the lush playing of the Oakland East Bay Symphony; and finally, "Bamboo," a piece by former company dancer Michael Lowe, with original music written and performed on Chinese instruments by a group called Melody of China.

The company itself may not offer great depth of talent, and virtuosic technique was rarely on display, but that seemed beside the point. The choreography was geared to offer what the Oakland dancers are good at, which is entertainment, something that builds audiences but doesn't necessarily raise the cultural stakes. Brown wisely steers away from classical ballet and sticks with colorful, jazzy and light works, emphasizing local choreographers and interesting musical sources. It was fun to have the pit band change from jazz quartet to symphony to Chinese instrumentalists. It added to the entertainment value, and made each dance stand out in greater contrast.

Bumps, grinds

Anderson's "A Night in Tunisia" featured some very nice dancing by Ilana Goldman, Chih-Ting Shih and Katherine Wells. Anderson offers Ballanchine clarity and female primacy without the edge that a typical Stravinsky score would have offered a work by Mr. B. It wasn't real jazz, it was jazz dance turned into ballet; the bump-and-grind

without the complexity and chance of improv; the Broadway jazz, not the house of Mingus. Still, it was a good curtain-opener, although the chorus could have been used to greater advantage.

"Jinx," the Lew Christensen reprise, featured what is probably the only bearded ballerina in the modern repertory, in addition to wirewalkers, a clown, bareback riders, a tattooed lady and more. The little boy from the audience I spotted at intermission dancing in the lobby was imitating the walk of the bareback riders, which looked almost more striking on a little boy heading into the Men's Room. This piece was all mood and drama, and not much dance. The music, Britten's "Variations on a Theme by Frank Bridge," had an eerie quality to it, and this story of bad luck and superstition at the circus seemed mainly an opportunity for costumes and acting. We're so used to seeing ballet pyrotechnics that it is useful to remember that it wasn't always so. "Jinx" was considered groundbreaking in its day, but in 2002 was scratch our heads and wonder what the piece has to do with ballet as we know it. But, of course, ballet can be anything.

"Bamboo," the crowd-pleasing finale, straddled the line between rich imagery and schlock. Any piece that features ribbon-waving ballerinas has got to earn the opportunity, and Lowe, the choreographer, was talented enough to pull it off. The Chinese music has its own set of sounds, clangs and rhythms, reedy shrieks and plaintive strings. The dance had a similar sharp-edged, quick-change quality to it, a fresh approach to ballet phrasing with liberal borrowings from martial arts, with modern-dance floorwork and wildness. If you've never seen a ballet company depict both a stand of bamboo and fireworks, you should try to catch this piece the next time it's offered.

"Bamboo" makes great use of dynamic possibilities suggested by the music and imagery of Chinese culture. Michael Lowe succeeds in representing cross-fertility, the tricky proposition that multiculturalism asks of us. Oakland Ballet may be the company to fulfill the artistic possibilities of true diversity. ▼

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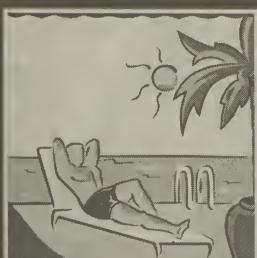
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FILM

More than a pretty face

Heath Ledger stars in 'The Four Feathers'

by Tim Nasson

Actor Heath Ledger is not quite as famous as I thought. Heath admitted during our breakfast sit-down together that not too many people other than his friends, colleagues and family know who he is. At the moment, that's not surprising, since he currently sports a nearly shaved head for a role in the upcoming film *Ned Kelly*, not the gorgeous curls that he is known for.

I asked Ledger what celebrity had done to him since we'd last talked in 2001, just before his starring turn in *A Knight's Tale*. Ledger also co-starred in last year's art-house hit, *Monster's Ball*, playing the son of executioner Billy Bob Thornton.

"I can walk down Fifth Avenue here in New York City, sit at a sidewalk table, eat lunch and not be noticed, at least to my knowledge, even once," he proclaimed. "The same in Los Angeles or London. And I don't mind it one bit. I relish my anonymity."

If Paramount, the film's domestic distributor, has its way, 23-year-old Ledger's drop-dead-gorgeous face and name (*Heathcliff*, derived from the book *Wuthering Heights*) will finally become famous. *The Four Feathers*, opening Friday, is the year's first big-budget period piece, and Ledger takes the lead.

Shekhar Kapur, whose last movie, *Elizabeth*, was nominated for Best Picture, directs. The film goes back in time to Victorian England, like *Elizabeth*. This time around, Kapur tells the story not of the Virgin Queen, but of the fictional Harry Feversham, one of Britain's finest young soldiers, and an accomplished rugby player. Harry's engagement (to Kate Hudson's Ethne) awakens a sense of self-doubt, and when his regiment is called to active duty in North Africa to fight the Sudanese rebels, he resigns his commission. That's where the four feathers come in.

Ledger explained the movie's title. "Coward soldiers were handed a white feather, the symbol of cowardice. But Harry was not a coward. Resigning from the army was the most honorable thing he could have done." But Harry's father and his three best friends disown him after sending their feathers. To add fuel to the fire, Harry's fiancé breaks off the engagement and falls for his best friend, a soldier played by *American Beauty's* Wes Bentley.

In his effort to regain the love and trust of his father, friends and former fiancé, Harry embarks on



Kate Hudson (Ethne) and Heath Ledger (Harry) in *The Four Feathers*.

an undercover journey through the North African desert dressed as an Arab, attempting to rejoin his regiment in Khartoum, only to find out that they've been taken prisoner in their own British fortress by Sudanese rebels.

Clubless, not clueless

"Working on *The Four Feathers* was not fun and games," admits Ledger. "Unlike *A Knight's Tale*, which was filmed in Prague, there were no bars or clubs to go to in the middle of the desert for three months," said Ledger. What did he do to keep from going crazy? "I acted crazy. Many nights, I would play drums with the Sudanese, get drunk and smash red wine bottles around. It looked like a fucking tribal ritual or something," he said.

While Ledger looks better than ever during the first half-hour of the new film, with greased-down curls, devilish smile, university rugby uniform, and almost-naked body during a locker-room scene, his looks take a turn for the rough when he is trudging through the desert. "Those makeup women were amazing," he said. "They really made me look ugly." About the grizzly beard he has in the film: "I couldn't have grown it on my own if I tried. I can't even grow a five o'clock shadow."

Ledger gained fame as a TV star. "I finished high school a year early, at 16, and decided to make the move from Perth, Australia, where there is nothing, to Sydney. So my best friend and I drove 2,600 miles," searching for fame and fortune. His breakthrough role came as a gay character on one of Australia's most popular shows, *Sweat*. "My father didn't think I was going to take a gay

role. But I wanted to take the role that no one thought I would take, and give it all I had." It paid off. Not only did he get rave reviews, he soon landed an agent in the US and starred in his first movie, *Ten Things I Hate About You*, the only teen movie he has ever done, and "will ever do."

There is a downside. "While not many regular people notice me on the street, it seems that the camera-toting tabloid reporters all know me. The stories they write about me in those magazines aren't what offend me. I don't care what they write about me and who I am having sex with. First of all, they aren't in my house or hotel room, so they don't really know what's going on. What creeps me out is when people are so pathetic they follow me around everywhere I go, hiding behind a bush, and popping out snapping pictures. They really need to get a life. My pictures can't be worth that much."

Whatever his tabloid pictures are worth, it seems to the motion pictures, he's worth a lot: two million dollars for *Four Feathers*. If Ledger continues to make sound choices, he'll find that his pictures, on and off screen, are worth more than he could ever have imagined. ▼

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Gregory Lumb Gallery

Paul and Astrud, both captured within 10 seconds of coming, part of the exhibition *Rapture* by Frank Yamrus.

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Aesthetic orgasms

September gallery shows in San Francisco

by Will Shank

It's fall, and our high-brow minds turn to thoughts of art! Several local galleries have met the challenge of giving us something new to view in the budding culture season, and if you do not want to wait in those long lines at the Legion of Honor to see dead Egyptians imported from London, check these out.

Gregory Lind at 49 Geary is showing the latest photographic work by Frank Yamrus in a little jewel of an exhibition. Even if you didn't know what the models were up to, these would be beautiful headshots in grainy, soft-focus, black-and-white. But look closer at those rolled-back eyes, those half-parted lips, and think about the title, *Rapture*. The wall text doesn't reveal the sitters' secrets, but they have actually been captured, according to the photographer, at a moment within 10 seconds of orgasm. It may be a gimmick, but it's an effective one, and Yamrus, who works between San Francisco and Provincetown, has created something beautiful out of a subject that is titillating without being pornographic, or even particularly erotic. Through Oct. 19.

Just down the hall at Robert Koch, a supremely elegant installation of large-format gelatin silver prints fills the walls until Nov. 2, so there is ample time to go in and contemplate them. The UK-based photographer David Parker captures unidentified locations with a panoramic camera, then prints them, in sepia tones, enlarged to a monumental scale. *The Phenomenal World* features tightly-cropped views of natural rock formations soaring upward from a low horizon line to be startlingly chopped off across the top of the picture plane. There is nothing like the original, but you can preview them at www.kochgallery.com.

A show of greatest hits celebrates the 15th anniversary of the Haines Gallery at 49 Geary, through Oct. 19. Elsewhere at 49 Geary, Ed Moses, an icon of '60s abstract painting, continues his relationship with Brian Gross Gallery. His latest ugly-beautiful paintings appear to be mixtures of tar and metallic paint, smeared across the surface with a trowel à la Gerhard Richter, through Oct. 19.

Rena Bransten, at 77 Geary, is showing paintings by actor/comedian Martin Mull. The large-scale paintings are remembrances of the artist's Ohio childhood. Looking like mixed media pieces in collage, silkscreen and paint, the artworks are actually simply paintings, jam-packed with pop-culture and commercial references like Dick and Jane, All-American boys and girls with whom Mull apparently identifies. But they are inserted into, or float above, surreal Midwestern American housing developments, and apocalyptic scenes appear here and there within the sedate suburban landscapes. It's like *Fernwood 2-Night* meets *Brazil*. The show runs through Oct. 5, with a catalog intro by Glen Helfand.

Echoes of the images that haunt Mull are cast across the bottom margins of the multimedia paintings of Inez Storer at Catherine Clark, 49 Geary. Dick and Jane and company peer through layers of paint in Storer's works, which resemble children's book illustrations or chalkboards from a grade school on a Very Dark Day. Through Oct. 12.

Machine dreams
Gallery Paule Anglim, 14

Geary, has a fun and thought-provoking show of recent work by the clever art critic and artist Jeanne Silverthorne. Based on the concept of "The Scream," this silent show has muted noises as its undercurrent. Represented by three-dimensional cartoon balloons without any text inside them, the unspoken sounds have to be "read" on the gallery walls, platforms and pedestals as they interact with a variety of Rube Goldberg-esque objects cast in rubber, or made of PVC pipes. Silverthorne's "machines" seem to convey inaudible sounds from one location to another, in a complex but ridiculous series of events à la *Der Lauf des Dinges* by Fischli and Weiss, in which a chain reaction sets off more chain reactions on film. Here only the action is missing. Ends Sept. 28.

The Hosfelt Gallery is showing Polaroids by Massachusetts-based photographer John O'Reilly, most recently seen in SF within the context of Camerawork's *Male Form* show this spring. At Hosfelt (430 Clementina), black-and-white images called *The Nijinsky Series* catch O'Reilly arranging, tearing, and photographing historic images into crumpled piles of paper. The resulting studio montages, rephotographed by the artist, appear chaotic, but they manage to show the grace and fragmentation of the famed ballet dancer and gay icon Vaslav Nijinsky. Through Oct. 12.

Hayes Valley has a new gallery in the same block as Polanco and the Hayes Street Grill. Gallery 364 has opened promisingly with an installation of found and constructed objects by Therese Buchmiller. The other new kid on the downtown block is Lizabeth Oliveria, who has moved from the heart of Oakland, where her cutting-edge exhibitions must have left quite a gap, into a fourth-floor space at 49 Geary. The opening exhibition is scheduled for Oct. 1, with a reception on the First Thursday of the month.

Too late for review: New Langton Arts' *Bags*, a visual and sound installation, based on handbags and luggage, which opens tonight at 1246 Folsom. See also SF State's gallery, where an intriguing ceramics show, *The Erotic Life of Clay* ("Featuring Sex Pots," their poster says), will open Sept. 22 and run through Oct. 17. ▼

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Hanging with the intersex

Thea Hillman on 'Depending on the Light'

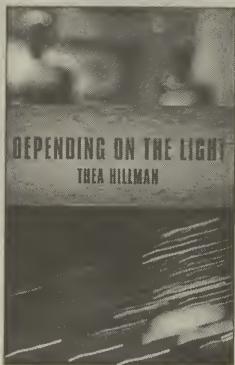
by Deborah Peifer

Serendipity in the world of letters is such a happy event. While attending a book signing at A Different Light, I met Thea Hillman, a poet with whom I spoke (too) briefly about intersex, performing poetry, and some events she was producing. She offered to send me her latest book so I could see if this fascinating person was as good a writer as she is a talker. She is. *Depending on the Light* (Manic D, \$13.95) is a collection that looks like prose and reads like poetry. You need only read her letter to Matthew Shepard to understand that she is able to find humor in the most terrifying circumstances, and anguish in the everyday horrors of gay life in the heartland. Hillman talks about relationships, parents, sex and love in breathtaking language that expands the heart and mind.

After reading *Depending on the Light*, I was certain that I had to ask Hillman a question or two, starting with the word "intersex."

Thea Hillman: Intersex is the politically correct way of saying "hermaphrodite." A person with an intersex condition is born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that is not considered "standard" for either male or female. There are all sorts of reasons to be out about being intersex, but for me the main reason is that these people's differences are being erased every day in barbaric ways. In the US, an estimated five babies a day receive unwanted, unnecessary, non-consensual cosmetic surgery to "normalize" their genitals.

Deborah Peifer: Is there a place for identity politics anymore in the



world of Bush the lesser? Or can we just say them and us?

There is not a whole lot of room for identity politics in our world. We just don't have that luxury anymore. And while I wish we could just say them and us, the world is much more complicated than that. That binary might mean I don't recognize natural allies. In creating a world free of shame, secrecy, and unwanted sexual surgeries, my allies might not always be intersex people. They might be fat people who understand what it's like to have a body that isn't considered socially appropriate or sexually viable. Or they might be disabled people who are routinely denied the right to be included in decisions about their health and their sexuality.

The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) was founded by Cheryl Chase in 1994. We work for systemic change to end shame, secrecy, and unwanted genital surgeries for people born with atypical reproductive anatomies. Until intersex people are allowed

to keep intact the healthy bodies they were born with, or make their own decisions about what will happen to that body, ISNA will be out there making change and changing minds.

In order to raise money for ISNA, I'm producing *Rated XXXY: An Evening of Erotica and Education* benefiting ISNA, the first intersex event at the GLBT Center, and the first ever, to my knowledge, event with all intersex performers and writers. Performers include myself, Solidad de Costa, Emi Koyama, Les Milstein, Shorona se Mbessakwini, and Hida Viloria. Cheryl Chase will be speaking as well.

What was the genesis of ForWord Girls?

ForWord Girls is the result of conversations I've had with writers Tarin Towers, Elizabeth Stark, and Daphne Gottlieb, while we were hanging out in the Mission and while driving across the US. The idea of ForWord Girls is to make airtime for the voices that get silenced the most in the spoken-word world: women as a whole, transpeople, girls, women of color, older women. These are the people writing and performing the most exciting material, and they often have the least access to the stage and the page. It's also a chance for those of us who have acquired experience and skills to share them and to network with others. ForWord Girls performers and panelists are people who have been, will be, or are now a girl.

Rated XXXY, October 4, 7-9 p.m. at the GLBT Center. Seats are \$10-\$50, no one turned away. Advance purchase at www.isna.org or call (707) 636-0420.

ForWord Girls, September 28, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the GLBT Center. Cost is \$25-\$100 for a day of panels and performances. For more info, www.forward-girls.com. ▶

Book Report



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Got Milk?

The Harvey Milk Institute has burgeoned into a major cultural force in San Francisco, and its Fall 2002 semester catalog is full of courses in language, literature, music, performance art, gender studies, self defense, career and finance, sex and eroticism, spirituality, relationships and more. HMI Executive Director Kevin Schaub says that despite economic hard times, there's been no slack in course sign-ups — an indication people are eager to fully live their lives and are disinclined to give in to recessions, wars and other bummer.

The courses continue on Sat., Sept. 21 at the SF LGBT Center (1800 Market St. at Octavia) with Marvin Werlin teaching "Drawing for Absolute Beginners" (10 Sat.; 10:30am-12:30pm. \$195), for those who always wanted to draw artfully, but didn't think they could.

On Wednesday, Sept. 25, you can join Schaub and Renaud Proch in "French for Queer Travelers 101" (8 Wed.; 7-9pm; \$165), ideal for those intending to visit France, who want a shot at picking up locals, or at least finding their way to the bathroom. If your destination is Italy, you have the option of taking "Italian for Queer Travelers 101" (also on Sept. 25), taught by Giancarlo Massetti (8 Wed.; 7-9pm; \$165).

The Institute's Arts and Lecture Series, which kicked off with novelist E. Lynn Harris and a rant by performance artist Tim Miller, continues on Sat., Sept. 28 with "Forward Girls," (9am-10pm; \$25-\$100 sliding), a day of panels, presentations and workshops by a boot-stomping, ass-kicking, ear-splitting, tear-jerking gathering of word-sputting girls of all genders.

Musically inclined persons can take "Beginning Acoustic Guitar" with Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (10 Sat.; 10:30am-12:30pm. \$195). She'll teach you basic chord progressions, strumming and fingerpicking patterns. Then you'll be set to woo that French man without resorting to words.

You'll want to take your French man's picture, of course, so you'd do well to learn the mechanics of cameras, lenses, light meters, film types, shutter speeds and the like. So take "Beginning B/W Photography" with either Victoria Heilweil starting on Sept. 24 (9 Tues.; 7-9:30pm; \$250), or with Chloe Atkins beginning on Sept. 25 (10 Wed.; 4-6pm; \$250). Both classes include printing and developing sessions.

Sex and relationships of all kinds (including French kissing) get a good going-over starting in Oct., with workshops at EROS (2051 Market St.) led by master sex instructor Frank Stroma, including "Keep Sex & Love Fresh" on Tues., Oct. 8. (7-10pm; \$20), and his hit sensation "Buttplay: A Hands-In Approach: For Men" on Tues., Nov. 7 (7-10pm; \$20).

For women, famed sexologist Annie Sprinkle offers "Fun with Ecstasy Breathing and Energy Orgasms" on Wed., Oct. 2 (6:30-9:30pm; \$25).

On Wed., Oct. 9 Sprinkle will be joined by David Jay Brown for "Techstas! Consciousness + Sex + Drugs + Technology — for Everyone," a look at how commonly used prescription drugs, recreational substances, and herbal and nutritional supplements affect sexual desire, performance, and one's psychological perception of the sexual experience. ▼



Local choreographer Charles Anderson unveils his new Company C., a contemporary ballet company, at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater. See Friday.



Firebird, set design by Sandra Woodall, at SFPALM. See Tuesday.

En 20

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"broOTHERs," a performance by the seven-member performance ensemble O.T.H.E.R. Brothers, kicks off the Jon Sims Center's Fall 2002 AIR-space artist-in-residence series. This collaboration of female-born-male-identified artists of color is on a mission to confront the LGBT and general Bay Area communities about the misconceptions and prejudices that face transpeople of color living in a "binary, often hostile, heterosexist world." Their AIR-space production combines spoken word theatre, poetry, color and movement, to create an experience that "gives voice to the unimaginable and unconventional." The seven broOTHERs are Johnnie Pratt, Angelo Hannah, La Tricia Ransom, Jaycub Perez, Yosephine Lewis, E. Duckett, and Prado Gomez. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimscenter.org

Castro Theatre

The San Francisco Zen Center presents "REAL to REAL: Buddhism and Film," a three day festival of Buddhist-influenced films and guest speakers. Tonight: 5:30pm opening reception with Doris Dörrie, director/screenwriter. Opening ceremony at 7pm, led by Rina Sircar, co-founder of Taungpula Kaba-Aye Monastery and its SF center, followed by screenings of Dörrie's "Enlightenment and Moments" (7pm) and "Guarantees" (9:30pm). \$10 per film; festival passes \$20-\$70. 429 Castro St. Tix/info: 255-6534; ticketweb.com; www.sfzc.org

SF LGBT Community Center

"GenderBlast IV," presented by the Youth Gender Project, a Center nonprofit tenant, co-sponsored by The Center and the Harvey Milk Institute. This is a free event for trans-

\$25-\$35 (\$20-\$24 seniors). 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru Sept. 22. Tix/info: 978-2787; www.yerabuenaarts.org

Fort Mason's Cowell Theater

Debut performance: local choreographer Charles Anderson's 12-member Company C., presenting modern ballet works including "Hush" and "Apocalypse" as well as a world premiere. \$15 & \$20 (\$35 including wine reception). 8pm. Also Sept. 21. Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 345-7575

Sat

Castro Theatre

"REAL to REAL: Buddhism and Film" festival. 1pm: Opening Ceremony by Blanche Hartman, Co-Abbot of SF Zen Center; intro to films by Zen Priest Michael O'Keefe; screening of Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon." 7pm: screening of "Colorful." 9:15pm: screening of Doris Dörrie's "Naked." \$10 per film; festival passes \$20-\$70. 429 Castro St. Tix/info: 255-6534; ticketweb.com; www.sfzc.org

SF LGBT Community Center

"GenderBlast IV," presented by the Youth Gender Project, a Center nonprofit tenant, co-sponsored by The Center and the Harvey Milk Institute. This is a free event for trans-

gender, transsexual, gender queer, intersex and gender-questioning youth and their friends and allies of all ages. The event starts with opening entertainment and features a full-day of workshops, entertainment, and discussion. Special performance by the Transcendence Transgender Gospel Choir. Lunch provided. Free. 10am-4:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St @ Octavia. Advance registration encouraged: email YounGender-Pro@aol.com or phone HMI at 552-2700. Info: 510-665-9234; 415-865-5625.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Tim Miller stars in "Body Blows," his latest solo show, part of the Twist & Shout Festival. Based on his new book, "Body Blows," the performance explores tangible body blows, both given and received — from a gay boy's first kiss a basher's fist. Says Miller: "Blow means many things, including that queer basher's blow, as well as the sweet blowing breath of a lover tickling over the eyes. The blows on your body from a cop in Houston or San Francisco, in addition to the exquisite blow of two men's bodies coming together in love." \$15-\$25. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru Sept. 29. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Polk Street

The Polk District Merchants Association presents "Urban

Oasis: The Polk Street Festival 2002," dedicated to the late Marv Warren, produced by Team PRO Event, Inc. of Mill Valley. Three stages of live music (tropical, Latin, swing and blues), plus arts and crafts, community organizations, drag queens, beer booths, etc. 10am-6pm today and Sunday, Sept. 22. On Polk St. between Jackson and Bush (the #19 MUNI will be rerouted to Van Ness Ave.). Info: 383-3470; www.teamproevent.com/Polk_St_Festival.html

Sun

SF LGBT Community Center

"Margie Adam—Leading an Activist Life; Walking the Labyrinth," sponsored by the BACW Uncommon Voices, The Speaker Series. An interview with the well-known feminist singer/songwriter and activist Margie Adam, plus an invitation to walk the labyrinth, an ancient walking meditation tool. Reception & refreshments 2pm; program from 2:30-4:30pm. Limited 40 participants. \$15 BACW members; \$20 non-members. 1800 Market Street (at Octavia). A non-profit, all volunteer event. Reservations required; e-mail: BettyS@sulcomm.com; call 503-1375.

MGM @ Ellard Hall

MGM (Midlife Gay Men), in collaboration with Stop AIDS Project, hosts a social for all midlife gay/bi/trans men, including a 30-minute guided discussion (at 3:30pm) on gay generation gaps. Free (donations appreciated). 3-5pm. 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St.). Reservations preferred;

email [mhm-mhr@onebox.com](mailto:mgm-mhr@onebox.com) or phone 1-866-668-4634.

Golden Gate Park

"2002 Doggone Fun Run," in which hundreds of dogs and their owners run and walk through a 5 km course to raise funds for Pets United and PAWS. Enjoy various games and demos. Hosted by Fitness Talk host Joanie Greggains. 9am-1pm. Speedway Meadow. Info: 241-1460; www.pawsf.org

New Leaf Center

Gay Men's Buddhist Sangha presents "Buddhism for Gay Men," a weekly meditation, presentation of Buddhist teachings, and discussion of the practical application of the teachings in one's life. Free. 3-5pm. 1874 Market St. (at Laguna). Info: 207-8113; www.gaysangha.org

Castro Theatre

"REAL to REAL: Buddhism and Film" festival. 1pm: Opening Ceremony and screening of "The Cup," a fact-based story about three boys in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in India. 4pm: Grela Ehrlich introduces "The Saltmen of Tibet," a documentary on the ancient traditions of a Tibetan nomadic community. 7pm: "Divided We Fall," set in Prague during WWII, exploring the complexities of a Christian couple taking in a Jewish refugee; it's a meditation on compassion. \$10 per film; festival passes \$20-\$70. 429 Castro St. Tix/info: 255-6534; ticketweb.com; www.sfzc.org

WaterWorld USA, Concord

XRay Productions presents "Gay and Lesbian Day at WaterWorld." This 7th annual water-park event is expected to attract thousands. Activities include exclusive use of the 20 acre water park, two dance areas with DJs all day, and a free buffet picnic lunch. Water attractions open 11am-6pm; dancing until 8 pm. All ages. Sounds by DJs Torque (92.7 Party), Joe B, and Matthew Baker (Club Universe). \$35 advance; \$45 door. Tix/info: www.xmensf.com; 621-7052.

Glaskat

pyrone presents "CAMP PLAY," a Burning Man Recovery T-dance Experience featuring vocal/epic trance and progressive grooves with DJ Gryder + Hughes (Burning Man, Sundance, Palladium, Sanctuary, Metropolis). Experience brotherly love. Awaken your creative energy. Dance to beautiful music. Flag to your heart's content. Re-engage your Burning Man experience. A benefit for Visual AIDS (www.visualaid.org),



Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos presents *Desde Cádiz Pá Acá* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre. See Friday.



Christina Braun dances *Peacedreams* at Theatre of Yugen's Noh Space. See Monday.

which encourages artists with life-threatening illnesses to continue their creative work. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. 6pm-2am. 520 4th St. (at Bryant). Tix/info: www.ptyronepre-sents.com

Grant Avenue, North Beach

The "Grant Avenue Fall Art Fair" takes place on upper Grant from Green to Filbert. Artists and musicians offer paintings, sculpture, jewelry, clothing and more, while musicians play live jazz and other riffs. Free. 11am-6pm Info: 986-6210 or 781-4201.

Mon 23

SF LGBT Community Center

The Bay Area Bisexual Network invites you to join us for "Celebrate Bisexuality Day" with an ice cream social. Come make gooey, chocolatey sundaes, meet and mingle with the BAN volunteers and find out what's new in the bisexual community. All bi and bi-friendly folks are welcomed (and encouraged) to join us. Check the lobby board for room number information. \$3-\$5 donation (NOTAFLOP). 7:30-9pm. 1800 Market St. RSVP to info@babin.org or call 865-5627.

A Different Light Bookstore

"Night of the Buttmen," a reading presented in conjunction with the best-selling gay men's erotica anthology *Buttmen and Buttmen*, featuring four diverse Bay Area authors with two things in common: love of butt and a talent for writing erotica. They are Simon Sheppard, Michael Goodwin, Jason Andressen, and Adam Ben-Hur. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro

St. Info: 431-0891

Yugen @ Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents "Peacedreams," an evening of Butoh-inspired works. Come experience the dream of peace as danced by Oakland-based dancer/choreographer Christina Braun and friends Molly Barrons, Desmonde Daisy, Delphine Mei and Martha Matsuda. Shigeki Asakawa will create the poetry of sound in six movements. His partner Minoru Yata adds spoken word and furnishes the minimal set with fresh flowers and bamboo cane. \$10-\$15 sliding. Also on Tuesday, Sept. 24. 2840 Mariposa St. (Post Artaud Complex). Tix/info: 621-7978; theatroyugen.org

SF LGBT Community Center

QComedy presents queer comedy hosted by Marilyn Pittman, with Lisa Geduldig, Nick Leonard, Bob Douglas, Ronn Vigh and Bridget Schwartz. Plus: The Brian + Mal Show, a gay and lesbian duo act from Boston (www.brianandmal.com). \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 1800 Market St. Tix: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

Tue 24

Lush Lounge

"Very Veronica," a night of jazz/soul stylings by that sensational, seductive chanteuse, Veronica Klaus, and her hot trio, including Tammy Hall on piano. Ms. Hall has been performing jazz piano both solo and in groups for the past twenty years, and has worked with such jazz greats as Etta Jones, Denise Perrier, Fabien DeGryse, Noah Howard, Jere-my Cohen, Lady Mem'fis, 788-SHOW

Frankye Kelly and Liza Silva of Voz do Brasil. (Klaus, Hall, Spencer Day and the legendary Justin Bond will be appearing together at Cafe Du Nord on Sept. 30 to benefit the campaign for District 8 Supervisor candidate Tom Radulovich). 1100 Polk St. (at Post). Info: 771-2022.

SFPALM

Opening reception/event: San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum (SFPALM) presents "Natural Selections: Stage Designs by Sandra Woodall," featuring the acclaimed artist's costumes and sets for dance, opera and theatre companies around the country and the world. At 7pm, Woodall joins the exhibition's curator, Sheryl Flattow, for an in-depth conversation about her work, including video clips of performances. \$10 (free for SFPALM members). Exhibition runs thru Dec. 28 (Tue., Thu., Fri. 11am-5pm; Wed. 11am-7pm; Sat. 1-5pm; admission free). 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix/info: www.sfpalm.org

Eureka Theatre Co.

Preview: The Eastenders Repertory Company present "Eight X Tenn," eight one-act plays by the great gay playwright Tennessee Williams, including two rarely performed works — *The Gnädiges Fräulein*, a surreal romp, and *The Traveling Companion*, a dialogue between an aging gentleman and a young hustler, plus *Moony's Kid Don't Cry*, *Hello from Bertha*, *The Lady of Larksprur Lotion*, *A Perfect Analysis*, *Given by a Parrot*, *I Can't Imagine Tomorrow*; and *in the Bar of a Tokyo Hotel*. \$12 previews (Sept. 24-26); \$15 Wed., Thu. & Sun.; \$18 Fri., Sat.; \$20 gala opening night on Fri., Sept. 27. 8pm. 215 Jackson St. Tix/info: 788-SHOW

Wed 25

Showtime cable TV

"Latino Filmmaker Showcase," premiering four films, including *De Colores*, directed by Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir, a doc about how Latino families and communities deal with their gay sons and daughters. The program begins at 8pm, with *De Colores* airing at 9:25pm.

Lush Lounge

Richard Nichol presents "Live at the Lush," a night of local cabaret. 9pm. 1092 Post St. (at Polk). 771-2022.

Kimo's

Live funk-punk-thrash-ska sounds upstairs with the bands Angry For Life, Not In The Face (Seattle), and Ominum. 9pm, 21+w/D. 1351 Polk Street (at Pine St.). Tix/info: 885-4535

Thu 26

ODC Theater

ABYDOS/The Directors Theater presents the "2nd Annual Feast of One-Page Plays" — 20 plays performed in 30 ways over the course of one evening. A versatile cast of actors will perform a variety of roles in this festival catering to our fast-paced times. \$15-\$18. 8pm. Thru Oct. 6. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

The Pendulum

"Alley Catz," the only weekly club night in the Castro for women, celebrates "Women of Leather" with their First Annual Folsom Street Kick-Off Party. DJs Lady G-Funk and Éclat keep the dance floor on fire. Let the fur fly! Cool down on the outdoor smoking patio. No cover. 6pm-2am. 21+w/D. 4146 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: 863-4441.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

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Mehmet Kurtulus and Jurgen Vogel star in *Naked* at the Castro Theatre's series of Buddhist-themed films. See Friday.



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LEATHER WEEK
HEADQUARTERS!

Sun: Leather Walk STOP and TRASH
Mon: 5th Anniversary Party
Tue: Ink and Metal RULES
Wed: SPANK!!
Thu: Leather Strap & Underwear Party
Fri: Bare Chest Calendar Men
and the PEC Party from
ChestManInternational.com
Sat: Folsom Fair Pre-Party
with BUD CHISM
Sun: Folsom Fair Day...Open @ 10 A.M.
Jerry Bonham 12-3 P.M.
SUPER TRASH MARATHON
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The wonderful world of leather



Photographer James Scott Geras, pictured here in a self-portrait, unveils "Fixation," an exhibition of sexy new works, plus La Salle Des Voyeurs (The Voyeurs' Room), a live nude photo shoot in the back gallery, at the elegant Atelier Gallery at 2354 Market St., penthouse, from 7-11 p.m. Details are at www.atelier142.com

by Mister Marcus

This coming week is always my favorite time of the year. We get our best weather then and people from around the world come here to savor the leather lifestyle they love and most can't get back home. Admittedly, standout contests and festivals around the country between January and December cannot be discounted. Leather Weekend in D.C. in January is always the showcase for the Centaur MC with their leather cocktails and the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest. And there are contests, leather festivals and conferences throughout the year to perk up your interest and for novices in our lifestyle to learn more about leather/BDSM.

Add "special" events like Folsom Street East in New York, Southern Decadence in New Orleans, Washington State Mr. Leather in Seattle, South East Leather Fest in Atlanta, South Plains Leather Weekend in Dallas (where they just added Interna-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, September 18

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets tonight at Blow Buddies with Jay Wiseman expounding on "Erotic Bondage." It all begins at 1930 and leather attire is encouraged. For info call 415-551-0871, click on www.leatherweb.com/LDG, or email SFLeathermen@yahoo.com.

Weekend, September 19-21

Boy Pride Weekend in Dallas, with a Friday Meet & Greet/Basket Auction at the Dallas Eagle; Contest on Saturday; and Pride Parade on Sunday.

In SF, it's the "Naked Inquisition Photo Shoot" at Mr. S. Leather, 310 7th St. at 6pm. Cameras welcome.

In San Diego, it's the GSGRA Rodeo, but no details at my deadline.

Friday, September 20

Exiles of SF monthly meeting at the Women's Bldg. With the agenda "Women of Color in the BDSM/Leather Community" featuring B.C. Oliver, Laurie Aguinaga, Mistress Pilar to name a few. Doors open 1930, Program 2000. \$3 for members and \$6 for guests.

The Leather Walk Warm-Up Party at the Powerhouse begins at 2100 and is a benefit for the walk on Sunday, with fun, surprises and the bare chest calendar men. Plenty going on here all week with anniversary party, Pec Party, and on and on.

Saturday, September 21

James Scott Geras' "Fixation" nude model photo shoot takes place in his Atelier Gallery penthouse at 2345 Market, 1900-2300, to benefit Positive Resource Center; for a \$20 donation you get to watch the photo shoot.

"Naked Inquisition" an exhibition and fundraising event at the Jon Sims Center (1519 Mission St.), with music, song, poetry and scenes. Nudity & SM. Cameras welcome. \$10 at the door. 8pm.

"Luv 'N Leather" fetish fashion show & auction at 1345 Howard, at 1900, to benefit Young Positives (26 and under). For info call 487-1616 or email to: douglas@baypositives.org.

Forum of SF progressive dinner for \$10 begins at 1800 (until 1900) with soup and salad at the Powerhouse; onward to the Eagle for the main entrée from 1900-2000 and lastly to the Lone Star for dessert and after-dinner drink.

Sacramento Valley Leathermen celebrate their 5th anniversary at The Bolt Bar, and leather attire is encouraged. For more info, email to: svl_club@yahoo.com.

KC Leather University launches their Fall Semester tonight at the D.B. Warehouse in Kansas City, MO. with 12 workshops and a plethora of na-

tionally-recognized experts in BDSM at noon today. For more info, click on: www.kcpioneers.com.

Sunday, September 22

San Francisco's Leather Pride Week kicks off today with the raising of the giant Leather Pride Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza at 1230. The Leather (Pride) Walk steps off at 1300 with a motorcycle escort, entertainment along the way and a pit stop at the Loading Dock and the Powerhouse. It finishes up at the Eagle followed by the Bare Chest Calendar dinner date auction conducted by Lenny Broberg. Don't miss any of this!

Wednesday, September 25

From 2100 to Midnight, it's a Spanking Party at the Eagle at 2000 tonight with a \$7 beer/soda bust and your chance to spank someone you love or not, yourself and make a donation to do so. For details, surf to: www.sleathercalendar.org/Forum.html. If you are a spanker, by all means, email your availability to: sfurryataol.com.

Friday, September 27

At the Loading Dock from 1800-2100, an auction and raffle for the Leather Archives & Museum with Joe Gallagher and Tom Stice auctioneering and Executive Director Rick Storer on hand to accept your donations.

At the Powerhouse, come and meet the 2003 Bare Chest Calendar men who will sign the calendars for you or to whomsoever you designate.

Leather Daddies 7th annual Erotic Art Auction at the Eagle beginning at 2100 with Tom Rodgers doing the honors and offering framed & unframed artwork (paintings, drawing, sculptures and photographs). View them in advance at Auto Erotica (4077A upstairs) until September 26th. Got items to donate? Bring them to Auto Erotica. Do it today!

Weekend, September 27-29

In San Jose, "Folsom Fringe Odyssey Island" leather/BDSM gathering at the San Jose Hyatt. The weekend will cost you \$175 at this date with transportation to the Folsom Street Fair. Surf to: www.folsomfringe.com for details or Email to: info@folsomfringe.com.

Sunday, September 29

The 19th Annual Folsom Street Fair, from 1100 to 1800, on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th. SMMILE hopes to raise the ante this year and surpass the \$265,000 they raised for charities last year. With some 500 volunteers and countless man-hours already expended, Folsom Street Fair at 19 is looking good!

Polk St. gets tropical!

by Sweet Lips

Okay girls, time to drag your best Carmen Miranda outfit out of their closets and dust them off. It's tropical fiesta time on Polk St. Yes, it's true: Polk St. Festival 2002 is coming your way this Sat. & Sun., Sept. 21-22, and the theme this year is "Urban Oasis." You can boogie in your banana-and-mango-topped hats both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The pageant of food and flesh will spread out on Polk St. between Jackson and Pine, in the tonier section of the Polk neighborhood. Three

stages will be set up, all with island themes. At California and Polk, there's the "Tropical Paradise Music Stage," where you can groove to tropical, Latin, swing and blues by Zulu Spear and other bands on Sat., and Deborah Pardes, Samba do Coracao, and Swing Session on Sun. At Jackson and Polk there's the "Fantasy Island Music Stage," with the bands Emaneclit, Red I, The Action Bats, and Emerson on Sat., and Austin Willacy, Uncle Frank, Key Lime Pie, and Rattlencans on Sun. At Pine and Polk there's the "Big Kahuna Stage," with only one act listed: Emerson. I guess he's the Big Kahuna in question!

The festival is dedicated to the

late Mary Warren, former QT II manager and president of the Polk St. Merchants Association, who brought some civility to the neighborhood and was an unflagging supporter of all the businesses on the street. He loved the boys of Polk St., of course, and you can honor his memory by dropping in at some of your favorite bars and cruising the customers.

Among the bars nearby are The Cinch at 1723 Polk (776-4162), where they have two pool tables, three pinball machines, and a couple of video games, sports games on the TVs, and DJs on weekends playing house and rock. There's a patio for smokers. The clientele is mixed men and women, mostly gay, and they're open daily from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.

You'll find the predominantly Asian gay bar Kimo's at 1351 Polk (885-4535), where they have hot go-go boys dancing to the sounds of DJ Feel on Fri. and Sat. nights, plus the hot club NRG hosted by Tita Aida on Thurs. nights. Kimo's is under new ownership, going stronger than ever.

Of course there's my personal favorite, where I rule as the city's oldest bartender: the Club Rendez-Vous at 1312 Polk (673-7934), where we have five video games, a pinball game, live drag



Dick Deemer, back from the Pines.

shows every Friday, male strippers on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of every month, and lots of fun all the time.

Speaking of Club R-V, our good friend Dick Deemer just returned from his summer job at the Fire Island Pines, looking fit and tan, and his fans just can't wait to meet him in person. They're in luck, because Dick will be popping into the Club R-V to mingle and amuse on Tues., Sept. 24 at Noon. Dennis Tyler will be catering, as always doing his classy thing to satisfy hungry appetites. It's going to be a great party, so you're all invited to join in. If you haven't met Dick before, now's your chance. He's our Number One Customer! ▼

Cocktail Hour

by Sweet Lips

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Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

tional Master & Slave contest), Leather Week in Los Angeles and San Francisco and the new Great Lakes Leather Alliance in Indianapolis certainly put that community on the map!

And yes, there's IML weekend in Chicago, IML in Omaha, and the American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC at the best possible time of the year in that city. Ms. World Leather embarks on its third year in 2003 and the Northwest region of the U.S. jumped back in to the game with the Northwest Leather Sir/Boy contest.

Mauro Montoya produced the Mr. Florida Leather contest last year in Fort Lauderdale which yielded Todd Kitchens as their IML contestant and the 2nd edition will be held next month again. Also, a new classy, glossy leather magazine emerged there earlier this year under the mentorship of Kandace Benish. And let us not forget the Tri-State Leather Weekend in Cincinnati, nor the Alameda County Leather Corps in Hayward, California. Bob Brunson, Jake Schwartz and the Russian River Region put Guerneville, California on the map with their leather events, and that town is now the stronghold for the Northern California Leather Sir/Boy competition. Graylin Thornton, a former Mr. Drummer and former Northern Californian, has migrated south to San Diego and besides his erotic video company, is now the sponsor of the Southern California Leather Sir/Boy contests. Long Beach, California is lucky to have Mark Malan on their turf. He has made a mere bar title, "Mr. Pis-



The Great Lakes Regional contest yielded this wholesome group who will compete at higher levels, including Leather Sir/Boy, IML and Bootblacking.

tons Leather," into a weekend-long extravaganza; and in Los Angeles, the L.A. Leather Coalition has made more progress in the last three years than anyone could imagine — and that is a good thing for my hometown, I'll tell you!

When you step back and look at it objectively, the whole situation is great. Aside from all the fundraisers, we have writers, artists and political activists taking care of business when we're not carousing at some weekend leather events. Nine out of ten of these events are, more likely than not, fundraising efforts for causes we espouse, that can only lead to a better lifestyle for minorities even in our own leather nation. Also for AIDS patients who get more support from "their own" than any government entity. Remain active and supportive.

When I ran for Emperor of

San Francisco and won the title, my slogan was "T.C.P." which means, "Tolerate, Cooperate, Participate". From where I'm standing, the leather/BSDM has always done that. And I am certain it will continue.

Have fun in the coming week. Make our visitors from far-flung places feel at home and welcome. Revel in all the leather glory that will prevail here on the Left Coast and tell your friends back home about it.

Delaware doings

Congratulations to Mike Mitchell of Doswell, Virginia who won the Mr. Double L Leather 2002 title last Saturday night, September 14 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. I am sure judges Mary Elizabeth Boyd, Al Santora, Mark Teesdale, Jim Raymond and David Baldwin made a good choice. They say Mike is a hunk! A construction worker, a firefighter and wears a size 14 boots! I can't wait to meet this one! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Tony At "Fresh"! On 8/18
You're from Chico, you're now in SF. You went
for drinks, you should have joined you. GWM who
chatted with you on our dance floor. Drinks sometime?
72012

Thurs Sep 5 Moms

You were with someone. So was I. It was nice to
look you up and see you. You're so cute. I said hi. 72040

Labor Day Sat. At Palladium

You Latin, tall, and a great kisser. Well hey sexy
it's me Michael! I was forced to leave without saying
goodbye. I'm sorry. Can I make it up to you? 72024

RaspaZo Bello Andrew Da Luna!

Handsome eyes, hair, gorgeous smile, hot accent.
Glad you called. Excited about possibility of having
fun with getting to know you. How bout that dance? Wink, L! 72042

10th & Mission Bus Stop

8pm Saturday September 7, waiting for bus. You
said something about bars, I mean, goatee daddy cap,
shorts. You're a good kisser. Would like to
meet you again. 72043

Outside The Eagle Sun Sept. 3+

"Thanks to all the kind, caring, and fast acting
guys who helped me when I lost consciousness and
fell. I wish I could thank you personally for saving
my life!" 72044

"Latino. Wearing White Visor 9/20/2"

You walking on Shattuck, near Ward Street.
(Berkeley) Monday 9/2/02 about 1pm. Me-
eting with you again and we'll smile. Me drove by
in green CRV. Asked if you spoke spanish and did
you work said, worked at Wells Fargo, 23 and
"Have a good day." I got embarrassed and drove
off. Please call. Let's be friends. 72045

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Our lips, our souls unite. Goodlooking, in shape
GWM, 38, 6-1, 155, clean cut, HIV-, ISO similar
guy, 18-37, versatile, in East Bay. N/D. 72013

GM 40 & MISSION 60 Plus

GM, 40, 5'10", 165 loving & affectionate, caring
& down to earth. Seeking GM 60 plus, little heavy. Must
be honest, loving & caring. I don't drink & drug
free. 72014

Seeking "Cute Nice Guy" In:

Marin County. I'm healthy cute Italian/ Russian
32 year old. Just moved back from S.F. and am
wanting to find a mate that's preferably sober. Is
my soul mate out there? 72015

East European ISO Hairy Hung Guy

32, 6'10", HIV-, hung to golooking, educated
secular hairy in-shape, hung, educated guy preferably
foreigner. No drugs, bar-scene. Not a sex ad! 72016

GAM 36 For GAM

Me: 36, 5'7", 153lbs, professional, romantic,
enjoys eating out, travel, theatre, movies. If you are
45 and sincere, please call. 72017

ISO Younger For Dad

WM, masculine, discreet, 5-10", 170+, ISO c
45yo, Caucasian, Latino, Asian for companion-
ship. 72018

Single Latino Valley Guy

GWM, 35, 5'7", 167, professional, masculine, bottom-
ton. Clean cut, straight looking/acting, good heart-
ed, looking for White/Hispanic guy with compatible
qualities. 25-45 for dating, ltr. S/ habla espanol.
72019

GAM Seeking Friends Ltr.

SF GAM, 41, 5'9", 140lbs, HIV-, slim & smooth.
Seeking in-shape men, 35-45+, any race for dating,
drinking, hiking, conversing, & two-stepping. Prefer tall,
healthy, HIV+ proportioned, masculine daddy who
desires a reciprocal caring, loving & monogamous
relationship. 72020

North Bay Senior Ltr

Parisian 60+ fit-loving seeks JGM Sr. 72030

Green Man 4 Lean Hairy Hung Top

Very tall, thin, attractive, masculine, fit,
muscular, very handsome. Seeking another nice
man that is fit, hairy with mustache or goatee,
over 35, a plus. 72031

Asian For Slim Asian

Seeking slim Asian in his 20's-30's for fun, dating
or relationship. Please be discreet, a passionate
kisser, sexually assertive and easy going. 72046

Japanese Men!!

Seeking Japanese men for love and traveling
companionship. New to SF June 2003. I am a GWM
45yrs. and a subscriber to you. 72047

Bi WM ISO BiLM Or To Fresh

ISO gay boy man or TS any race for freakers.
Me 30 190 tasy juice, you break through mail,
pic for pic, like the chance playboy. 72048

One Good Man Wanted For Lover

White man 49, 6' 209 lbs brown hair blue eyes,
love oral bottom or top seeking White man 50-70
for lover. 72049

French Canadian Bottom Looking..

GWM 40, 5'10", 145# pos clean-cut bottom/uncut
7'1" long legs, hairy, loyal and stable looking for
GWM 35-50+ versed for dating and possible
relationship. 72050

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mic consciousness. 72051

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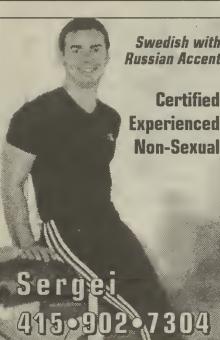
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E39

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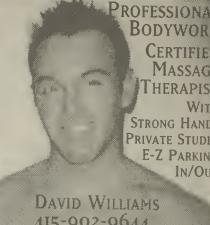
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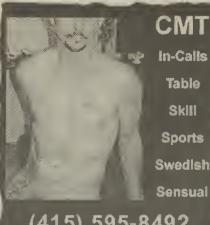
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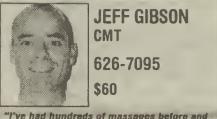
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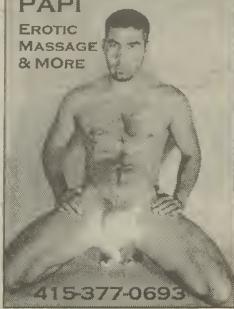
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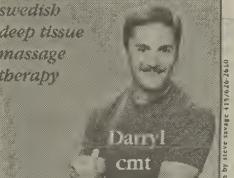


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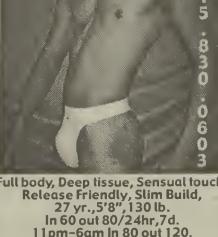
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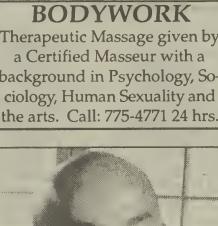
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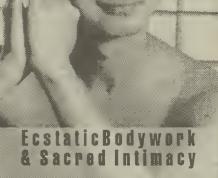
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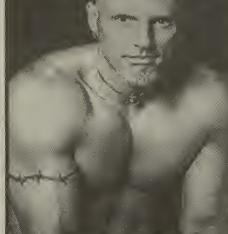
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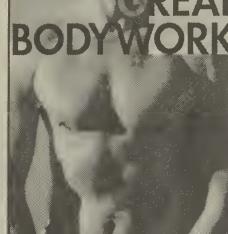
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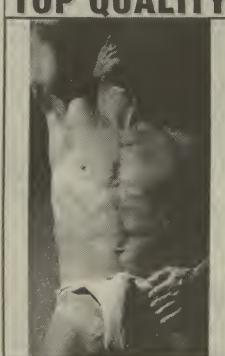
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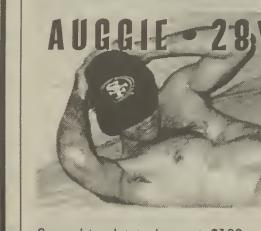
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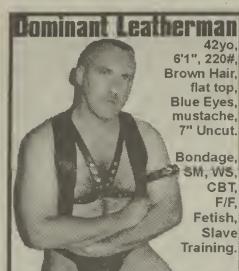
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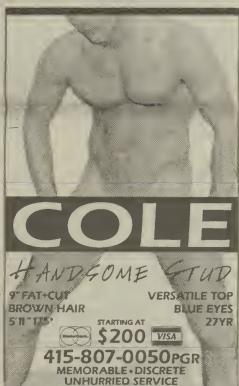
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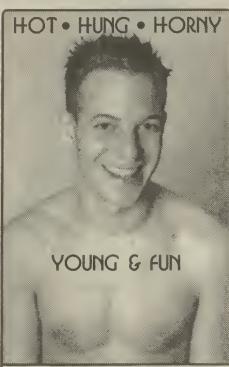
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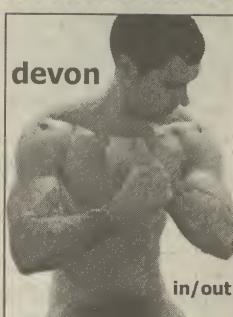
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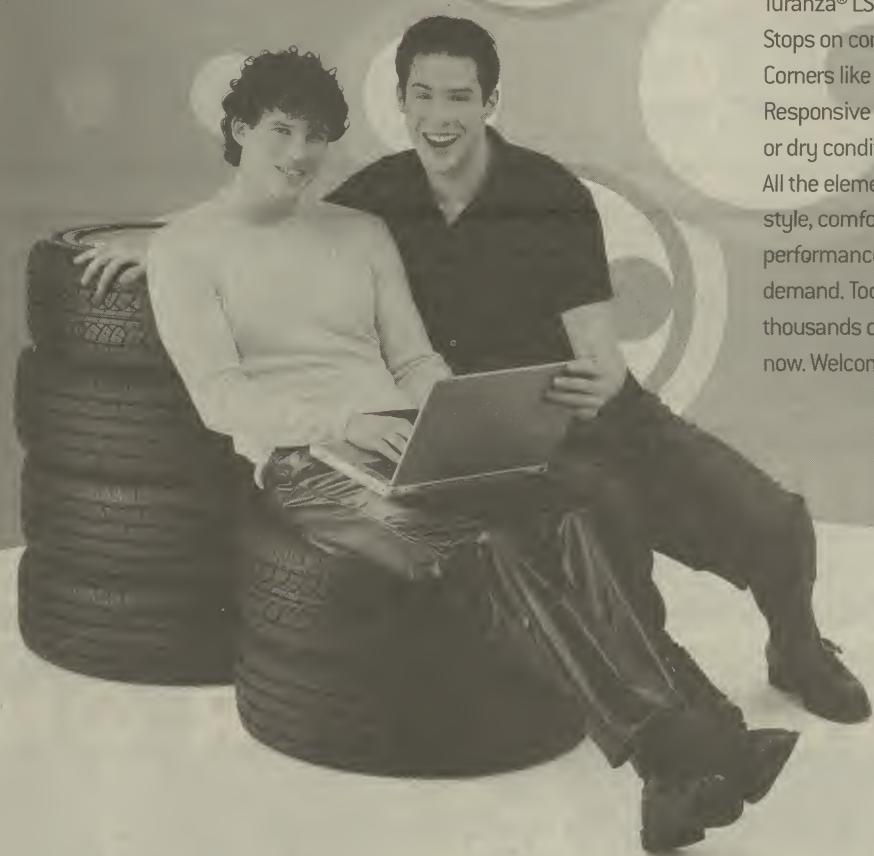
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